

Christmas is Almost Here

By Tim Webster

Christmas is almost here. The stores have been telling us that since early October. My wife used to get quite miffed when retailers skipped fall and Thanksgiving and rushed right into marketing their wares for the “biggest consumer holiday” of the year. Certainly, we can’t expect people who don’t know Jesus to think of Christmas as the birth of the Savior. But there is no excuse when the people of God fail to keep Jesus at the center of our celebration this time of year.

This year Christmas comes on Sunday. I came to our elder team and asked them what they thought we should do about worship services. They looked at me puzzled and asked, “What do you mean?” I reminded them that traditionally we have Christmas Eve services. They nodded their heads. Then, I proposed that with people coming out on Saturday night to church, many may not show up on Sunday morning. I asked them if they thought we should plan for just one service on Christmas morning to accommodate the smaller crowd.

Our elders looked at me and said, “Why in the world would we want to do that? Of all the Sundays of the year, Christmas morning should be the best attended worship service. What better way is there to worship the babe of the manger than coming to His house to worship?” I have to say it was one of the many moments when I was so thankful for a group of men who love Jesus and keep Him at the center of Uniontown Bible Church.

So, church family, we invite you to come out Christmas Eve at either 5:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. and to return Christmas morning at either 9:15 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Jesus is the reason for the season. Let’s demonstrate that by making worship of Him our first priority.



Our mission is to become a holy people of The Holy God glorifying Him by imaging and proclaiming Jesus

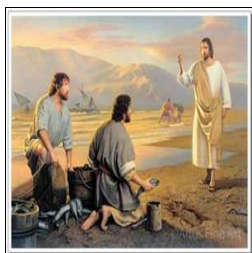


The Cost of Following Jesus Christ

By Pastor Jay Bubel

In Luke 9 there were three men who wanted to follow Christ. The first one told Jesus that he would follow Him wherever He would go. Jesus responded, **“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”** Jesus then turned to the next man and said, **“Follow Me.”** The man responded, **“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”** Jesus responded, **“Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”** Still another man said to Jesus, **“I will follow You, Lord; but let me first go say good-bye to my family.”** Jesus replied, **“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God.”**

When I read this passage the thing that hits me right between the eyes is that Jesus laid out the cold hard facts of what it cost to be one of His. Jesus’ words stress the fact that His message of the kingdom of God is more important than anything else—even family members. The message and the Messiah cannot wait. Jesus’ servants cannot have divided interests.



When we say yes to Jesus Christ we say yes to the costs. By saying yes to Jesus, we are agreeing to the terms that He laid out to us in this passage. More importantly, we are saying we will give up everything and anything that hinders us from following Jesus.

In Isaiah 6:8 God asks a question. **“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”**

The question “Who will go?” does not mean God did not know or that He only hoped someone would respond. He asked the question to give Isaiah, now cleansed,

an opportunity for service. The prophet knew that the entire nation needed the same kind of awareness of God and cleansing of sin that he had received. Isaiah, after looking at the glory of the LORD, said, “Here am I. Send me!”

We have been called into service by The Most Immensely Holy Awesome God. He has called each and every one of His children to make disciplinarians wherever we are and wherever we go.

(Read this article in its entirety at <http://missions.utown.org/>)

A NEW BEGINNING

Begin the New Year with Jesus as King, give Him first place and praise to Him sing.
Along your path, He'll be your guide, leaning on Him, close to His side.

Be thankful for blessings He sends each day, read His Word and to Him pray.
Help a friend along your way, remembering little children at work and play.

Speak a word and witness for Him, spreading His word where light is so dim.
Endeavor to win a soul this year, pleasing your Lord and Savior so dear.

Be found in the Lord's house, His Word to hear, sing His praises, we hold so dear.
He holds our future only He knows it all, He is always there to hear your call.



Appalachia Harvest Project

By Marty and Deb Liebno



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jay and Cindy Bubel, Jesse and Diane Byers, Marty and Deb Liebno

WHERE

Jolo, WV: Pastor Charles and Sharon Rose
Pastor Johnny and Ruth Cooper

Big Rock, VA: Pastor Steve and Donna May

WHAT

The Missions Team partnered with these pastors to assist them in reaching their communities with projects including building/repair projects, visitations to shut-ins, and nursing homes.

OUTREACH BARN

At the Bubel's Outreach Barn, donations of clean, operating appliances, furniture, household and kitchen items, etc. are packed and loaded in trailers for transport. Please, no clothes. The donations are distributed to meet needs or sold at yard sales at The Family Worship Center in Jolo. The proceeds are used for needs around the church and community.

TRIPS

- When trailers are filled, turn-around trips are taken throughout the year to The Family Worship Center.
- Annual Appalachia Harvest Project trips: two teams of 20 each from UBC serve in Jolo, WV and Big Rock, VA. God's calling on your heart is all that's needed; no other experience or particular skills required. The 2012 trip is scheduled for June 21-25. Pray and plan now. Sign up in February. Meetings and serving with UBC Local Outreaches are mandatory for team participation. Information available at sign-up.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

Teams grow together in the Lord through prayer, devotions, serving Christ Jesus and worshiping with the pastors and congregations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Opportunities:

- 1) Donate items to the Outreach Barn—drop off anytime. If you need donations picked up, **Contact** Marty Liebno 410-984-3615
- 2) Be part of a team **Contact** Jay Bubel 410-259-1787
- 3) Help at the Outreach Barn 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m. Help pick up items, package items in boxes, and load trailers. **Contact** Marty Liebno 410-984-3615, Jesse Byers 410-848-0424

WHY WE DO MISSIONS THIS WAY

Annual trips to the same area allow us to build ongoing relationships with the pastors, their families, and the folks of Jolo and Big Rock. It is a cherished partnership in spreading the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. Encouragement flows both ways with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Appalachia Mission Trip 2011

by Missions Team Leaders-Jesse and Diane Byers

Living Room Leaders, John and Terri Gillis, Jared and Amanda Nelson, Miles and Beth Brey, Pastor Pete Green, and 14 HS youth.

The mission is to partner and build Godly relationships with The Family Worship Center through Pastor and Sister Rose in Jolo, WV. Life and struggles tend to pull people down, with God's help; our teams serve with the FWC community to offer hope.

Missions' trips start months ahead of time with much planning, meetings with youth leadership, working with Pastor Rose on work ideas, and how best to serve the Jolo community. Sign-ups, collecting deposits and payments, hotel reservations, release forms, covenants, meal planning, vehicle needs, devotions, and arrival/departure times, etc. Local serving included the youth canned food drive to support the Raven Ministry Outreach and served with a UBC Local Outreach. They started a journal about the trip, prayed for the Appalachia pastors, their families and churches, and also for themselves and each member of the team.

Mission serving included building a deck for a family where the father has cancer, cleaned; organized and stocked the Raven Ministry with the donations they collected, visited a local nursing home, helped with a FWC yard sale, and visited Rhonda who a team built a deck for 2 years ago. Some were recruited to help dig a grave on a mountain, because of the location they could not get equipment in to dig, always expect the unexpected. There were some sightseeing trips with Pastor Rose and a member of the FWC to see some of the beautiful mountaintop views of the Appalachia Mountains. Time spent with Pastor and Sister Rose is very special and you soon see their love for the Lord and serving the people of Jolo. Our hope for these young people is that this be the beginning of carrying on the ministry of serving others in the Lord's name. Always remember these trips are not about us, but all about being obedient and giving God all the glory. UBC's relationship with the FWC is long-standing and we look forward to being invited back next year.

Missionary Highlights

By Cindy Bubel

Doug & Kelly Blacksten

Doug and Kelly serve in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with **SIL International**. **Doug** has developed a plan to address the remaining Language Development and Bible Translation needs in Ethiopia with 25-30 projects underway. Another 30 language communities are still waiting to have the Word of God in their language. Beginning in Jan 2012, Doug will begin a two year term as Director of SIL Ethiopia.

Kelly serves in desktop publishing, working on a number of books including some grade-two early readers for the Basketto language. She prepared for and led a Scripture Use workshop for 6 language groups, in the southern town of Arba Minch. Of the 120 participants who spoke Dirayta, the message came through loud and clear: reading, hearing and studying in the mother tongue is vastly more meaningful and satisfying!

Daughter **Grace** has graduated from Queen's University Belfast and is planning her wedding!
Son **Eric** is in process of choosing college/university.

How can you partner with this work?

Gift the Blackstens with your finances: Wycliffe Bible Translators •
PO Box 628200 • Orlando, FL 32862 USA • Write Douglas Blacksten on your memo line

Send the Blackstens a note of encouragement: Doug and Kelly Blacksten PO Box 2576 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia •
doug_blacksten@sil.org



Sherrie Dodson

Sherrie serves with [Gospel Mission Worldwide](#), serving on the American Indian Field. "The spiritual needs among the Tohono O'odham are great. Families are affected by abuse, alcohol, drugs, and gang violence, often leading to health issues and premature death. I pray and work alongside other believers to see people's lives transformed through Christ. I've loved the opportunity given to serve here as a counselor at a program through the tribe's Behavioral Health department. The Lord has given this specific group of people to love, pray for, live out the presence of Jesus among, and love enough to tell them about Him. My heart and thoughts are for them."



Gift Sherrie with your finances: WORLD GOSPEL MISSION, P. O. BOX 948, MARION, IN 46952-0948. Write Sherrie Dodson on your memo line.

Encourage Sherrie: Sherrie Dodson P. O. Box 3088 Sells, AZ 85634 sherrie.dodson@wgm.org

He said to them,
And "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Mark 16:15



Missions Retreat Testimony

By Jodi Sell

Wow! What an awesome way to spend a Saturday! Luke and I just walked in the door from the UBC Missions Retreat. On the way home, we were discussing how amazing it is to be part of a church that is so focused on serving the needs of the least of these. As always, the Mission's Team did a beautiful job of providing us with such an informative and enjoyable look at where our church is serving, abroad and right here in our own communities.

Luke and I have attended every Missions Retreat that our church has held. I carry my missions' bag to each one with me, and keep adding to it all the information that we are given. I love watching how our church focus continues to grow and how we faithfully provide for the needs of so many of God's precious children. One of the greatest blessings is seeing firsthand how our pastors and elders live what they teach. They don't just encourage us to go, they go themselves. It was so refreshing to sit back and listen to how they were so blessed by serving the needs of others.

As a mom of a senior at Key, this could be the last Missions Retreat that I share with my boy. Luke will be graduating in May, and then will be heading off to a mission-training program. Luke was sitting in his Sunday school room, in the house behind our old UBC building, when he was just 5.

A missionary was there, and looking right at Luke, said that one of the kids in the audience had already been called to the mission field. Luke was sitting there with tears in his little eyes, and God was speaking loud and clear to his little heart. Luke has kept his focus since that morning, and God has reminded him of that calling in many different ways over the years.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Luke has traveled to Appalachia three times, Mississippi twice, Texas once and New York once to serve God through meeting the needs of others. He is getting ready to complete the carpentry program at CCCTC, so that he will have a trade to use while on the missions field.

What a joy to be part of a place that loves on the unlovely both near and far. The Missions Team even perfectly fulfilled our needs by serving us a delicious meal following the conference. May each of us find our mission field and give it our all for the glory and honor of our Savior!



MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

By Tom Grubb

2011 – UBC MEN'S RETREAT UPDATE: Men, thanks to all who came out for our Men's Retreat on October 22nd. All the men who attended last year's event and/or this year's would agree that it has become a work day rather than a retreat. To explain a little further, God has graciously provided UBC with this wonderful property and it is our job, as good stewards of the Lord, to maintain it. Dan Wantz has the job of maintaining the entire church property and buildings, and it is a massive task that Dan attacks with a heart filled with love for our Savior. Unfortunately he is one man and can use any help we men can give him throughout the year. As such, we have decided to keep it going and next year it will be called the "Men's Ministry - Annual UBC Clean-Up Day."

To recap this year's event, we had 26 men come together for a light breakfast followed by 2 ½ hours of shoulder-to-shoulder time, working on odd jobs around the church buildings and property. We came back to the church for worship time, an inspiring word from Jason Merson on "Keeping F.I.T. for Christ" and lunch. The day ended at 1:30 and a lot of work was accomplished. I look forward to seeing you all next year. Thank you again.

Next on our calendar is the "Flix with no Chicks!" Movie Night on Saturday December 3rd at 7:00. And don't forget the 2012 Father/Daughter Ball. February 18th, 2012 from 6-9 pm.

We encourage **ALL MEN** to attend our Men's Ministry gatherings and to join a small group or Bible study.

Hebrews 10:23-25 – "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to **stimulate one another** to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own **assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Your Men's Ministry Team - Dennis Moreland, Denny Gill, Jared Barberry, Lance Fadden, Chris Rogers, Bill Harrington and Tom Grubb



By Lisa Mowers

Freedom Starts Now! Celebrate Recovery is a 2-hour meeting held each Friday from 7-9pm. We start with worship, prayer, and a testimony or teaching. We then move to our men's and ladies' "open share" groups, safe places to share our struggles and victories. Many stay and enjoy a time of fellowship. **Newcomers are always welcome at CR – no sign-up is required!** We even have a "Newcomer's 101" group for those who'd like to learn a little more about us on their first night.

Testimonies are a great way to end the year, to be encouraged by what God is doing in other's lives and to gain hope for what he will do in ours! On December 2nd, Pastor **Tim Webster** shares God's hope in his journey through **SUFFERING**. On December 9th, **Judi** shares her testimony of God's grace in her life, and January 13th, **John** shares his story of victory.

Worship: We have been richly blessed to have **Jeff & Eileen Estes** lead our worship time on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month, in addition to the wonderful PRAISE night with the **UBC Praise Team** on the 1st Friday of each month.

Step Studies: Do you long for freedom in your life? Men's and Ladies' Step Studies kick off in **January**. These studies are held on a separate night from CR, and you do not need to be an attendee at CR to sign up for these! Whatever that "thing" is that you are struggling with, there is hope! Now is the time to spend a season of your life working through Eight Biblical Principles, based on the Beatitudes. Day/time TBD. Contact us at cr.utown.org to sign up or for more info.

Potluck Fellowship Dinners: December 2nd & January 6th, beginning at 6:00 pm. (followed by WORSHIP with the UBC Praise Team)

Announcements: *NO meeting December 16th (join us at the UBC Christmas Play), *NO meeting December 30th (due to holidays). For updates & weather related closings, sign up on our blog at cr.utown.org, or friend us on Facebook "**Celebrate Recovery Uniontown Bible Church**"



the Landing

A 52 week, on-going program for middle and high school aged students to address their struggles...

**A NEW MINISTRY FOR TEENS
BEGINS JANUARY 27, 2012!**

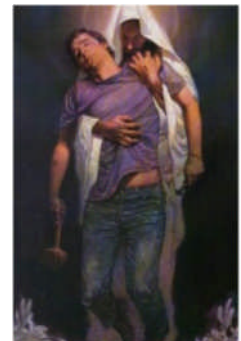
*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."
(1 Timothy 4:12)*

UNIONTOWN
BIBLE CHURCH

By Eric Dietrich

Does your teen and/or their friends struggle with anything that doesn't glorify God, or help them lead a Holy life? Celebrate Recovery has brought adults freedom from hurts, habits, and hang-ups through the healing of Jesus Christ. Now teens will have a safe place to share their own struggles, while experiencing freedom, healing, and wholeness in God through worship, lessons, prayer, and fellowship!

"Come unto me, all ye that labour, and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest"
Matthew 11:28



"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

Wow!! We have just about completed our first year of Celebration Station. It has been a year filled with excitement, learning, singing, silliness, quiet times, games, crafts, small groups, prayer, snacks and God's truth through His Word. Children are sharing how they are living out what they learn at CS at home, with friends and at school. They are being challenged to share with friends and family why they may choose to be nice when no one else will be nice, wash the dishes, be kind to an unkind sibling or just look a little different than others. These kids are being challenged to share that Jesus is the reason they look different. As we wrap up the first year of our curriculum we would love to have your children join us and find out just what we do on Friday nights. We will be saying "YES!" to Jesus and sharing what we have learned during the first year of Celebration Station. We will be learning that God is always dependable. We will be serving others and experiencing the joy that comes with serving. It really is a great place to be on Friday night.

As the first year of Celebration Station comes to a close we look forward to beginning again in January 2012. At that time we will begin the curriculum again watching as God uses His truths to teach us how to live a life completely surrendered to Him. So, whether you begin this Friday or wait until the new year, please come and check it out.

MOPS kicked off to a great start in early September with around 30 moms in attendance plus all of their adorable preschoolers!

Our theme this year is "Bold-Loving-Sensible" and we plan to explore how God calls us to be each of these in early motherhood. We have several amazing speakers lined up as well as some exciting creative activities designed to help us grow as women and moms. Recently we held a ministry fair to spotlight ways our moms and their families can get involved to serve others locally and around the world. Several of them served a meal to the Carroll County homeless through the Loaves and Fishes ministry at the beginning of November. It was a wonderful way to serve as a team and demonstrate to our children how to serve others. We can't wait to see how God will move in our midst this season!

Relevant

Relationally Inclusive

Growth-oriented

Purposeful

Passionately Christian

We are really blessed to have such wonderful childcare workers each year for the MOPPETS program. However, if anyone would like to volunteer their time please contact Linda Harrington. To learn more about MOPS, visit our website - <http://mops.utown.org> - or contact Coordinator Rebecca Merson, 410-635-8203. We ask that you continue to keep this ministry in your prayers, because better moms make a better world!

Baptism By Steve Hreha

Our next baptisms will be held Sunday Dec. 18th during both services. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ and would like to take the step of baptism please contact Pastor Steve Hreha (410-775-1345). Steve will have a preparation meeting on Sunday, Dec. 4th, at 11 am in the church farmhouse, with anyone desiring to be baptized. Please contact Steve prior to that meeting so he can let you know what you need to bring with you.

Make Christmas Real

It isn't the gifts and the glitter
That makes Christmas real to me.
But the star that led to a manger bed
That shepherds came to see.

God sent His Son to a sinful world
To give His love to men.
Just a tiny Babe in a stable bare
While angels voices blend.

Give Him first place in your heart
today
He longs to dwell within.
He came as a Babe, you can own Him
as King
This blessed season, while glad
carols ring.

Ms. Dottie Fritz

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24, 2011
5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Both services the same
No child care available

Christmas
Sunday, December 25, 2011
9:15 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Both services the same

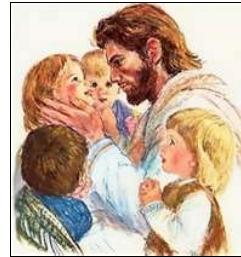


***“One of 31”* Our latest project in our Sunday Morning Ministries.**

We are excited to introduce **“One of 31”**. Are you **“One of 31”** workers that serve our children on Sunday mornings? In Ministry-to-Ministry I found a portion of an article that I want to share with you: “More than ever, the Church needs leaders who perceive their calling by God to minister to children. Do you have such a calling? If you are called, you will have a burden--a heartfelt desire--to minister to kids. You won't just be filling in a gap because no one else will. Instead, that burden will lead you to strive for excellence in serving boys and girls, and to connect them with Jesus Christ. Ask God today to give you a burden for children's ministry, or to renew your burden. If not you, who? The world?”

What a privilege and honor to be a part of ministry to children. If you would like to help in any of our classes, please contact me today. No prep required! Just show up with a loving heart and show the love of Jesus to His little children. The children are challenged to live their lives daily for Christ. These kids are worshipping with their whole hearts! Don't miss out! If your kids are not a part of our Sunday morning ministries, we invite you to check us out!

- Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.
- Kid's Worship Service- 11:00 a.m.
- Nursery provided at both services



AWANA

AWANA kids are growing by leaps and bounds as they memorize the Word of God! Many teachers have been challenged to do the same to TRY and stay one step ahead of the kids! The kids took the month of October and collected non-perishable items for A Little Love Pantry. How exciting it was to see the bin overflowing with goods as the children walked in with smiles and bags of food! Great job kids! They are now collecting money to help needy families in the community for Christmas.

You are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:00 p.m. There will be NO meetings on Dec 14th, 21st, & 28th. Clubs will resume on January 4, 2012. We could use a few helpers.

I also want to take the time during this Christmas season, to thank the many volunteers who work tirelessly every week at UBC in all the different ministries to children. YOU are a blessing and your servant's heart does not go unnoticed. Thank YOU from the bottom of my heart!!

Thank you again for the privilege of ministering to your children.
One of 31!
Donna Haines
Donna@utown.org

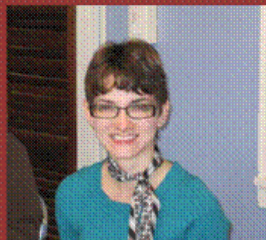


WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please welcome these folks when you see them!



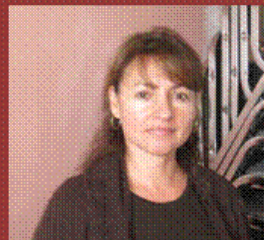
John Hollis



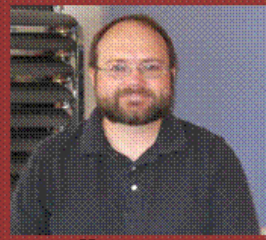
Stefanie Hollis



Charles Yowell



Donna Yowell



Jeff Coon



Steve Kreimer



Lisa Kreimer



Josh Hein



Doug Cherry



Jeremiah Calp



Jeff Saltsman



Wendi Saltsman



Dave Kimmel



Melissa Kimmel

Sharon Brown



Jeannine Thomas



NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

By Denise Velte

If you are interested in taking the step of membership, our next class will be held January 8, 15, and 22, at 11 am in the church farmhouse. Prior to the class you should have worked through and completed the Discovering Membership booklet that is available at the Welcome Center in the church foyer. Attendance at all three classes is required. Please contact the church office (410-775-1345) to let us know if you plan on attending the class.





December Birthdays

- 2 Darlene Naecker
- 4 Carol Thompson, Cindy Bubel
- 5 Brian Bowers, Christy Schipper
- 6 Lisa Burdette
- 7 Dotti Etzler, Carlie Merson
- 8 Laurie Beardsley, Dianne Tate
- 9 Coleen Beal, Rebecca Reifsnider
- 10 Denise Velte
- 11 Linda Brewer, James Unglesbee
- 12 Holly Clevenger
- 13 Michele Jones
- 14 Dana Weaver, John Hollis
- 15 Dawn Metcalf
- 17 Chris Rogers, Amanda Smith
- 20 Martin Liebno, Aaron Wike
- 21 Bruce Strine, Lance Hodges, Timmy Sowers
- 22 Jackie DiGiacomantonio
- 23 David Howes, Krisha Maistros, John Dodson, Hyla Morris
- 25 Julia Ann Lockard, June Griffin, Lillie Rebert
- 26 Kim Green
- 28 Dave Fitzgerald
- 29 Pete Naecker, Thomas Crabbs
- 30 Shirley Dooley
- 31 Terri Meushaw, Susan Smith, Jared Schumacher

January Birthdays

- 1 Doug Shade
- 2 Laura Gabel, Jerad Barberry
- 3 Kathleen Eichstedt, Stefanie Hollis
- 5 Eric Deitrich, Jr., Mary Johnson
- 8 Don Knox, Ray Jensen
- 9 Deborah Liebno, Tyler Haven
- 11 Dennis Moreland, Peter Green, Pamela Brown, Jessica Morris, Travis Morris, Amy Rebert, Jen Barber
- 13 Wendy Casker
- 15 Kayla Gillis
- 16 Sean Finch
- 18 Jack Dick
- 19 Daryl Higgins, Abby Rutter
- 22 Robert Wantz
- 23 Teena Smith, Laurian Mathias
- 24 Sarah Rutter
- 26 Jeannine Thomas
- 27 Jason Merson
- 28 John Rutter, Tracie Hreha
- 29 Dawn Knox, Jay Esworthy, Tiffany Miller
- 30 Joseph Gallagher
- 31 Murray Kenyon, Denise Compton, Brandon Brown



Wise Men Still Seek Him!