

CHRISTMAS GIVING



Administrative Bishop Daniel Hampton

The anxiety that comes with trying to decide what to give family, friends, associates, and who are the ones we should give a gift to—certainly can diminish the joy of the season. We make our lists, check it against what we gave them last year, and go through the questioning process, of ‘will they like this’ or ‘should I get something else’. Then we wrestle with how much we should spend against what our budget allows. So many people overspend during this season and then struggle the rest of the year paying for the items which creates stress for several months on the finances and the home life. So often we get caught up with the idea we have to do more this year than we did last year.

The merchandising of Christmas has definitely taken away from the real reason we are celebrating this most wonderful time of the year. If I were to ask you what you got last year for Christmas could you name all the items or even one for that matter? It is interesting how much energy we spend on trying to make sure everyone on our list is going to be happy with the gift we give them and all the while miss out on the real reason for this celebration.

Remember Christmas is the Celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace. He came into this world to bring redemption, love, joy, peace, healing, deliverance and the list could go on and on. The greatest gift ever given came into the world that through Him we might be restored to the Creator of all things. Our gift giving, regardless the cost, can never compare to the love gift God gave to us on that first Christmas. If we really want to give a gift that people will remember long after the Christmas season has passed—let’s give them Jesus. He is the gift that will last for eternity. He never goes down in value. He never loses His power. He never gets out dated. He never stops giving back. He never turns anyone away. He never leaves us but is there everywhere we go. What He promises He always performs. His promise that He will come back again is as sure as the prophecies of His first coming which we are celebrating now. I could write line after line and page after page about this gift from God but I think we get the picture of real Christmas giving.

This year why don't we focus on the giving of ourselves first in full surrender, to Him and secondly sharing this gift with those on our gift list? That's Christmas giving the whole world needs. Remember He came to seek and save that which was lost.

Read the Gospel of Luke chapter 2 and be encouraged today in the fact this Jesus, written about there, is the same Jesus, who I believe is soon to come back again, not a baby in a manger but King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Proverbs 22:17
*"A merry heart does
good like medicine"*

*Our Sincere Condolences
to the Family of
Etsel Rose, Pastor
Naugatuck Church of God*

*Our Sincere Condolences
to the Family of
Roy Dale Sharp-
Retired Minister*

If you look for Me at Christmas

you won't need a special star ~

I'm no longer in Bethlehem,

I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me

amid the celebrations ~

You'll have to look beyond the stores

and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment

from your list of things to do

And listen to your heart, you'll find

I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,

And you'll find me in the stillness

as I'm whispering your name.

Love,
Jesus

Upcoming Events

Please note that with the current Covid-19 situation these dates are tentative to change.

- January 29-31 Premier Winterfest Ocean City, Maryland
March 12-14 Smoky Mountain Winterfest Knoxville, TN
April 16-17 West Virginia COG Women's Conference
April 24 Jr. & Teen Talent location to be announced
April 27-29 The Smoky Mountain Gathering Gatlinburg, TN

New River Ranch Children's Home

One of the 2020-2022 Women's Ministries Missions Project's is the New River Ranch Children's Home. Our project is to refurbish each Cottage with new kitchen necessities. We have set up an online registry at Amazon for those who would like to make a purchase. There is also a list of needed items on our webpage wvcog.com, click on Women's Ministries, scroll down and click on NRR-Kitchen-Needs.

The Amazon link is found on our facebook page, West Virginia Church of God State Office.

Attention Pastor

Do you have a young adult who exhibits strong leadership abilities, and is 16-20 years old? We have a program that is just right for them. LEADNOW is a online program that consists of 12 sessions, one hour a week, for 12 weeks. At this time we are taking recommendations for the next session that will begin in January. If you know of someone who would be a good fit for the program, please contact our office at 304-252-0622 ext.3 and ask for Lisa.

We, as the Church of God State Office Staff, are praying for each Pastor, Pastor's Wife, Minister and Lay member, and attendee of our churches, that God will provide and keep you and your families safe during this time.

Mountaineer Ministries Prayer Requests:

(these requests come from the White Envelopes that are enclosed)

Our country; Our President and State Leaders; Military; Health Care Professionals; Health and Wellness; Finances; Job; Marriage; Family; The Church; God's hand of protection; Students, Teachers and Staff at School's; A miracle healing for Joshua; Digestive problems; Those who are sick with Covid-19; Unsaved family, friends and neighbors; The Election; Our children; My Pastor and Pastor's Wife; Church to resume; Peace for our country; Nephew that has MS; Strength for my body; God to lead and guide me; A vaccine for Covid-19; Son not to be deployed

Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:

(these reports come from the White Envelopes that are enclosed)

Waking me up this morning; My Pastor; Life starting to return to normal; For going back to church; Family being together; My Job; Souls saved; Son completing drug rehab; Passing Exam; God always providing; Our Church; God's grace on our country; God healing my body; God Saving my Children; My Pastor; For my children; A Church on fire for Jesus; God's presence in my life everyday; My family; My Health; My Husband; My Church Youth Group; God saving my daughter; Son getting a job

**Please continue to check out our Facebook pages
and Website for updated information.**

Mark your Calendar

December 17-30 State office will be closed for Christmas
January 4 State Office will reopen at 7:30 am
April 16-17 WestVirginia COG Womens Conference
April 24 Jr. & Teen Talent location to be announced