

Church of the Open Bible

(Church of God General Conference, Atlanta GA)
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Pastor Rex F. Cain / 440.232.3970 / December 16, 2007

Reflecting the Light

If Abraham is known as “*our father in faith*,” could Mary be known as “*our mother in faith*”? She certainly had a lot of faith in God, and it made a huge difference in our lives. God needed Mary. He needed someone to give flesh and blood to the Redeeming Light. Not that it is always easy to say “yes” to God. Mary knew the same uncertainty and fear any of us would. We may call her blessed, but guess what the towns people called an unmarried, pregnant teenager? Astonishingly, the Redeeming Light entered our world because this girl agreed:

“Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Luke 1:38 NRSV

And think about Joseph. God needed him too. Jesus needed a righteous earthly father who would care for him and nurture him as he “***grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.***” It took a lot of courage for Joseph to accept God’s plan when His messenger told him to let go of fear and take Mary as his wife. But Joseph said “yes” to God.

God needs you. The light of the Redeemer that has illuminated your life reaches others by being reflected by a flesh-and-blood person—you. Advent is a wonderful time to think about how we say “yes” to God. Each day is another opportunity to make a place for Jesus in our hearts, in our homes and in our world.

The key word is “*witness*”. A witness tells only what he or she knows personally. The Bible says we will be the Lord’s witnesses. Christians may be mocked by some in the world but we are the ones who can reflect the truth of how the light of Christ redeems us. Are

you reflecting the light of Jesus and sharing why he was born? Take every opportunity this Christmas season to spread the good news—*“Joy to the world, the Lord has come!”*

—Adapted from devotions by Robert Hereth and Mark Neilsen / seen in South Bend Timberland newsletter Dec. '07

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**JAMES AND MILDRED DENNIS** sent our church a generous gift check and wrote, *“Merry Christmas to our Brothers and Sisters in Bedford. Blessings in 2008.”* You’ll remember they visited here Oct. 1, '06 and Mildred spoke to us enlarging upon incidents from her book, *“It’s Gonna Be Okay.”*

— James and Mildred Dennis / 12-6-07

### **A GREAT CHALLENGE!**

**A NEW YEAR** draws near – would you like the challenge of reading your Bible through in a year? We have nice tracks that give you the passages you must read each day to get that accomplished – it usually can be done in a few minutes. The track lets you skip from the O.T. to the N.T. In fact, you don’t even need to follow the suggested schedule because it provides boxes to check off what you’ve already read. Let me know if you’d like a Thru The Bible In A Year track.

**POINSETTIA’S** have been brought to the church this month in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please give Pastor Cain the names before next Thursday for printing in the Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> bulletin.

**GENE FAEHRICH** (Fred Schuld’s brother-in-law) graciously volunteered to come to church this past week and do some plumbing repair. We are very grateful! Thanks, Gene!

**PLEASE LET PASTOR CAIN KNOW** anytime there’s an address or email change, phone # change, etc. so he can keep a running update in the church directory. Note - I can print an update directory for you anytime or I can send it to you on line. One is printed annually in May. Thanks.

### **ADVENT MEDITATIONS**

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> / Kathy Onderdonk

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> / David Onderdonk

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> / Kathy Kostyo

Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> / Susan May

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A Reminder To Those of You Who Use My
E-mail Address. It Has Been Changed to:
REXCAIN@GMAIL.COM

CONGREGATION, I am now completely switched over to my new MacBook laptop computer, which was a gift from my congregation! Thanks & thanks again! Stop by my office anytime to see how it works.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Feb. 21-24, 2008, will be a Northeast PROPHECY Conference (and Conf. business) at Brushcreek Church near Dayton with guests, Anthony Buzzard, Bill Wachtel, Wally Winner and Arlen Rankin. More details later.

Christmas resolution

The Christian Post reports that the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution this week recognizing the importance of Christianity and Christmas in America. Congress voted 372-9 to recognize "the Christian faith as one of the great religions of the world" and acknowledges "the international religious and historical importance of Christmas and the Christian faith." Representatives also agreed to acknowledge and support "the role played by Christians and Christianity in the founding of the United States and in the formation of the western civilization." "For us to move forward towards Christmas without honoring Christ is, I think, a great omission, especially if we're going to honor other religions," Rep. Steve King's (R-Iowa), who sponsored the measure, told One News Now.

OneNewsNow.com December 13, 2007

PRAY FOR: Frank Toth, Margie Goldman (miscarriage), Anita Cain, Ken-Kathy Cramer, Jeff Stoneman (cancer, by Whaley), Terry James (cancer, by Roper), Evelyn Pennington, Jason Dishong (by G. Whaley), / Pastor Beder (cancer, Peru), Jack Hearp, Ruby Korode, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Edith Speer, Jacob Hinton*, Kathy & Destiny Reed + current pregnancy*, (*by Skip), W.C. & Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Andrew Weaver, Jackie Schuld, Dan & Rachel Cain (internship / teaching degree), **Shut-ins:** Evelyn Pennington **Military:** Rodger Schuld, **Those serving in other countries:** Lupe

Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Beder Ucañay-Peru, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. **Colleges / Churches:** RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

DECEMBER 2007

16 Christmas Banquet here at church after services

23 Christmas Sunday

30 Richard Marsh speaking / Pastor and wife on vacation

Future dates: Jan 13 Gideon Speaker / Feb 21-24, 2008, N.E. Prophecy Conference, Brushcreek OH

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M.
WORSHIP 10:45A.M.

Musicians: (Doris Schuld and Mark Cain)

Welcome / Announcements / Prayer

Advent Devotional: Kathy Kostyo

94 Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Prayer: Pam Weaver

Offering

Readings: Jacob & Adam Cain

93 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

102 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Puppet Show (The Cains)

Sax solo: "What Child Is This?" (Mark Cain)

Message: "When The Time Had Fully Come"

Key Texts: Gal 4:1-7; Lk 2:25, 38; 1:6, 28; 2:20; 1:17; Jn 18:37

243 Give Me Thy Heart