



We moved to Collinsville on a Halloween. You probably know that story by now. And think that is appropriate. Gloria and my babies – a treat. Me – a trick. A mean, dirty trick. A trick that keeps on giving.

I would have been more appropriate if we had come three weeks later. On a Thanksgiving. Because all these years later, that is what I feel. Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving to God. When people ask me where Collinsville is, I tell them it is 75 miles from Birmingham, 75 miles from Huntsville, 75 miles from Chattanooga and 100 miles from Atlanta. In other words, I tell them, it is right in the middle of nowhere and is a place that I would have never found if God hadn't brought me here.

And I am always aware that we are here by the grace of God. And very thankful to Him. I think often of driving down Highway 11 in the Ryder Truck Rental with 4 year old John and 2 year old Mark sitting on the big truck seat next to me and Gloria in our white Mazda in the rearview mirror. We were amazed at how beautiful this valley was. The mountain with fall leaves, cows in the pastures. Our excitement at going to a new home.

Gloria and I had waited a year and a half as we searched for the place where God would lead us. And it turned out not to be Clarksville, Indiana, Washington, Georgia, or Elizabethtown, Kentucky. God was good enough to bring us to Collinsville, Alabama. And we have thanksgiving to God for bringing us here and allowing us to stay.

And thanksgiving to you. Our truck and car turned left at the light by the church, came across the tracks to the pastorium, and there was a yard and house full of people. People who moved us in and welcomed us. People who would love us and accept us. The people of Collinsville Baptist.

I don't know for sure how you found us in Louisville (I hope you feel that it was God leading you to us). But you did. And you asked us to come here to minister with you at Collinsville Baptist. Thank you. We are thankful.

And you have allowed us to stay all these years. The treat of Gloria and our children. And the trick of John (has there ever been a scarier Halloween trick?). Thank you.

I am writing this two days before Thanksgiving, 2012. We just wanted you to know that we have felt Thanksgiving for 35 years. To God. And to you. (Please, no John and Thanksgiving Turkey jokes).



**Sunday Mornings During Advent**

**Sunday, December 2**

Beginning of Week of Prayer for International Missions  
Lighting of Hope Candle  
The Promised Advent  
Jeremiah 33; Luke 21

**Sunday, December 9**

Lighting of Peace Candle  
Luke 3 – Preparing the Way  
  
Children’s Choirs Program

**Sunday, December 16**

Lighting of Joy Candle  
Luke 1 – The Miracle Begins –  
Mary and Elizabeth

**Sunday, December 23**

Lighting of Love Candle  
Luke 1-2 – The Miracle Arrives



**Sunday Nights During Advent**

**Sunday, December 2**

Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon  
5:00

**Sunday, December 9**

Community Christmas Service  
Harvest Center Church of God of Prophecy  
6:00 P.M.

Join Us as the Christians of Collinsville Celebrate Christmas Together. Each of Six Churches Will Be Presenting Ten Minutes on Advent Themes

**Sunday, December 16**

Christmas Caroling  
5:00  
Meet at the Church to Go Into the Community for an Hour

**Sunday, December 23**

Communion Candlelight Service  
5:00

Join Us for Thirty Minutes of Christmas Worship. We’ll Have You Back Home With Your Family Before 6:00



**Sundays After Christmas**

**Sunday, December 30**

Regular Sunday Morning Activities  
Luke 2 – In Need of a Few Shepherds  
No Evening Service

**Sunday, January 6**

Epiphany  
Celebrating Gifts for Jesus in 2013  
Luke 2 Jesus at the Temple  
Matthew 2 The Wise Men  
5:00 Sunday Night

**Sunday, January 13**

Covered Dish Dinner & Quarterly Ministry Meeting  
Noon

**Sunday, January 20**

Sanctity of Human life  
Evening – Music Night

**Sunday, February 3**

Souper Sunday; Men’s Day



**Other Christmas Events**

**Saturday, December 8**

Community Christmas Parade  
2:00 P.M.

**Thursday, December 6**

WMU Christmas Store Collinsville Nursing Home

Donations Needed for Residents Who Shop for Presents at No Charge.

Volunteers Needed at Nursing Home for Event.



**Operation Christmas Child**

Final Report – 59 Boxes were sent from our church this year!

Thank you to Brooklyn & Braden Barksdale, Jimmy & Tangy Carter, Katie Dean, Jonathan De La Cruz, John & Angela Helms, Trinity Perez and Allora Perkins who came and helped Leah and me pack the boxes. The love and attention that was put into each box by the CBC kids was an amazing experience. I never cease to be amazed at what we can learn from our kids if we take the time to watch and listen. Thank you also, to everyone who participated in this special outreach by bringing boxes, items and money. There will be smiles on the faces of 59 children this Christmas that wouldn’t have been there otherwise.



**Be Obedient**

*His Heart/His Hands/His Voice*

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Southern Baptist churches collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the sole purpose of supporting international missions. Every penny of the offering goes to the International Mission Board’s overseas budget, thus supporting our missionaries and their work.

National Goal - \$175 Million

**Church Goal - \$3200**

Week of Prayer for International Missions  
December 2-9  
Ending on Epiphany – January 6

## Lottie Moon's Plain Tea Cake Recipe

From the Web site for Woman's Missionary Union [www.wmu.com](http://www.wmu.com):

As a way to earn the trust of the people and show her goodwill, Lottie Moon made tea cakes for the children in her village in China. Once the children ate the cookies, they would take Lottie to their homes where she would share the gospel with their mothers. The children began calling Lottie "the cookie lady" instead of "foreign devil." Why don't you make some cookies and do a little local missions – like Lottie?

### Plain Tea Cake (As made by Lottie Moon)

Three teacups of sugar  
One teacup of butter  
One teacup of sour milk  
Four pints flour  
Three eggs, well beaten  
Half a teaspoon of soda  
Flavor to taste, roll thin, bake in a quick oven.

#### Adapted recipe:

2 cups flour  
½ cup butter  
1 heaping cup of sugar  
1 well-beaten egg  
1 tablespoon cream

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg and mix well. Add the flour and cream. Dust a board with flour. Roll the dough very thin. Cut cookies with a round cookie cutter. Place on a buttered or nonstick cookie sheet. Bake at 475 degrees for about 5 minutes.

For more information on Lottie Moon go to:

[www.imb.org/main/give/page.asp?StoryID=9657&LanguageID=1709](http://www.imb.org/main/give/page.asp?StoryID=9657&LanguageID=1709)



## No One Left Behind

F.A.I.T.H. Riders – a Christian

motorcycle group that meets on the third Thursday at 6:00 at Ruhama Baptist.

### Riley Edwards Mission Trip



Riley is going on a mission trip to Portugal for a week in March with other football coaches and others. They will be doing football seminars to enable them to be able to do worship, Bible study, individual witnessing. It is a joint effort of FCA (Riley has led the Collinsville High group for several years) and Jax State Baptist Campus Ministries. If you would like to help with Riley's expenses of \$2500, you can make a check to Collinsville Baptist for Portugal Mission Work. We will forward the money on to them and see that it is credited to Riley's trip.



To Lawrence, Brenda and Curtis Williams in the loss of Lawrence's mother, Irene Anderson.

### Anniversary Remembrances

On the table in the vestibule there are books and two DVDs available. One DVD is the video of the two hour worship time, the other is a compilation of many pictures and written materials from church history. They will be available until the new year or until they are all claimed.



The "Yellow Dot" program is a free service provided to individuals of all ages, with an emphasis on senior

citizens. It provides detailed medical information that can be crucial following a crash. Participants of the program receive a "Yellow Dot" decal, a "Yellow Dot" folder and an information form with the participant's name, an identifying photo, emergency contact information, personal physicians' information, medical conditions, recent surgeries, allergies and medications being used. A "Yellow Dot" decal on the driver's side rear window of a vehicle alerts first responders to check in the glove compartment for the corresponding "Yellow Dot" folder. Having this information following a crash helps first responders positively identify the person, get in touch with family or emergency contacts and ensures that the person's current medications and pre-existing medical conditions are considered when treatment is administered for injuries.

Go to City Hall and get your Yellow Dot!!



For the past several years member of our congregation have provided the flowers for the altar.

They have been placed in honor of someone or for a special occasion. Sometimes they are from a florist, sometimes from someone's garden. Sometimes they aren't flowers at all, but family pictures and mementos.

The sign up sheet was passed around a few weeks ago and it was quickly filled in. It is on the bulletin board downstairs and there are about dozen Sundays available.

It is not too late to sign up. Just pick an open Sunday and write your name down!

# December 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> BIRTHDAY Katie Hogeland
<b>2</b> FLOWERS Sandra Killian	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> BIRTHDAY	<b>5</b> BIRTHDAYS Thomas Barksdale John Dorr	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> BIRTHDAYS Mary Ann Pendergrass Andrea Wright
<b>9</b> LORD'S SUPPER John & Amelia Dorr	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> BIRTHDAY Al Graves	<b>14</b> BIRTHDAY Brent Killian	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> BIRTHDAY Phyllis Jones Joey Bobo	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> FLOWERS Carolyn Shankles BIRTHDAYS Allison Foster Gloria Wright Ricky Jones	<b>24</b> BIRTHDAYS Susan Shankles Matthew Morgan Rachel Jones Crane	<b>25</b> BIRTHDAYS Carolyn Shankles	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> BIRTHDAY Rex Leath	<b>28</b> BIRTHDAYS Josh Jones	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> BIRTHDAY Scott Burke	<b>31</b>					

# January 2013

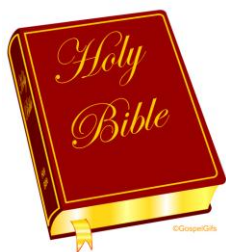


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> BIRTHDAY Jimmy Pendergrass	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> BIRTHDAY Sandra Killian
<b>6</b> FLOWERS Donzella Bobo BIRTHDAYS Rick Wilkins Angela Helms ANNIVERSARY John & Amelia Dorr	<b>7</b> BIRTHDAYS Donzella Bobo Inez Smith	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> BIRTHDAY April Leath	<b>10</b> BIRTHDAYS Bradley Shankles Lana Cosby	<b>11</b> BIRTHDAY Marilyn Borntrager	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> LORD'S SUPPER Mark & Glenda Morgan	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> BIRTHDAY Dot Burke	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> BIRTHDAY Olin Samples	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> BIRTHDAY Braden Barksdale	<b>26</b> BIRTHDAY Steve Shankles
<b>27</b> FLOWERS Marilyn Borntrager BIRTHDAYS Ronnie McReynolds Rachel Burke	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> ANNIVERSARY Thomas & Martha Barksdale		

## A Guide to Buying a Bible for Christmas

So you decided to buy yourself or someone you love a new Bible for Christmas. Then you go to look only to learn that there are an overwhelmingly large number of choices. And you begin to feel very uncertain. The salesperson asks what you want and you awkwardly reply, “uh, a blue one?”

Before shopping make three main decisions. First, what translation do I want? (unless you are into reading the original Greek/Hebrew). There are many translations. You may be a King James Version person. If so, decision made. Or you may want a newer translation that is easier to read. We use the NIV for reading aloud most Sundays, but even there you have to be careful. The NIV from 1984 is the one we use. Avoid the NIVr – a failed attempt to find more market by changing too much in the translation. The newest NIV, out a year, is in between these two. I still like the NIV 1984. It is the most popular translation in the U.S. today. Or you might like the RSV or many others. Maybe you still like Good News or the ones that have replaced it. And maybe you would never turn loose of that Living Bible. Or you really like story telling Bibles like The Message or The Cotton Patch Version. Confused? My favorite translation is the ESV. It is growing in popularity by leaps and bounds among evangelicals. It is written at a little higher grade level than the NIV. More importantly, it does not change words from the original just to be politically correct. I feel safer with it than any other translation (except the NASV which is the most literal translation). But you should choose the one you like best. They are all God’s Word. By the way, all translations will come in different size type. You should ask a salesperson to show you a chart. Want a really small Bible? Thin paper and very small print. Want a large print? Much larger type but much larger book (and there are several kinds of large type – large, giant, etc.).



Second, what cover do I want? This will depend on how long you want to keep the Bible. I divide the choices into three groups. First, there is paper or cardboard or plastic. These covers are not meant to last and will not. But they are great if you want the cheapest choice and are not going to keep the Bible for a long period. Second are the in between – bonded leather, synthetic, and a few others. These look better than the first group and will last longer, but are more expensive. A paper Bible might cost \$5-10. A bonded leather cover might cost \$15-30. These can also have names put on the front. They make nice gifts. The third group is leather. This can be full calfskin or a more expensive leather. There is a wide range in cost. These are designed to last a lifetime. The cost may run from \$50-200. I have no recommendation here as the choice is all about your planned use for the Bible. Please remember an ESV paper back and an ESV full leather have the exact same words inside them. Almost all of the Bibles in the second two groups will also have a few additional things usually called study helps. These are things like maps, cross references, concordance, dictionary. But not extensive notes. Which brings us to:

Third, do I want a study Bible? This is an important question. We live in an age when there are many choices in study Bibles. I have read through about fifteen study Bibles. It is very, very important to always remember that these notes are not Bible. They are some fallible human’s ideas about the Bible. Very helpful, but not Scripture. The words of the text, the ESV or other translation will be exactly the same as that \$5 paper Bible. And you should be aware that most study Bibles only come in a few translations, so you may have to choose between translation and Study Bible. If you do want a study Bible, you may already have a favorite – Thompson Chain or another that has been around a long time. Or you may want one that specializes like an Apologetic Bible or Archaeological Bible. Or one that your favorite preacher or teacher has written. If you want a general one that is good, I would recommend one like the NIV Study Bible. I really like The Quest Study Bible for a Bible that is very friendly in the way it presents its notes. They are in the margin and are given as responses to questions you may have been asking. However, I read through the ESV Study Bible this year and really, really like it. It is by far my favorite Study Bible. There is a tradeoff, though – it is very, very thick – the one I read this year had 2,500 pages. And it is big enough in a medium print size to be not easy to carry around. You might prefer a smaller one like The Quest. You decide that.

And whether or not it comes in blue. Or orange – my first choice.

**To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:11 NRSV Bible)**

---

When I was growing up, I can remember making out my "want list" by pouring through all the Christmas catalogues we received in the mail. Often, I would put down the prices, so mom and dad would see how little it would cost them to get everything I wanted.

However, as we read the Christmas story, the question we should ask is "WHAT DO WE NEED FOR CHRISTMAS?" What will help us live out Christ's message of love and forgiveness? What will happen to us when the last turkey scraps are used and the cookies and other goodies have been devoured? What will we do after the excitement of Christmas is over? What will we do to satisfy the hunger for the bread of life that got lost in all the activity and busyness of this season?

I read a story, a few years ago, about a store that was jammed with last minute Christmas shoppers, and the lines to the cashiers were very long. And of course there was nobody helping people with their questions on the floor of the store. Amid the madhouse, the telephone rang in the mail order department. The caller asked if the store had any copies of a popular book left, and if they did she would like two of them. "Just a minute," said the clerk. After checking, the clerk informed the caller that there were some books left and said, "That will be \$24. Do you want us to send them C.O.D.?" "Oh, never mind sending them," said the caller, "I'll pay cash. Just bring them up to the front of the store... I'm the one standing by the pay phone."

This is a busy season, hopefully after today it will slow down some. But there is a lot more to Christmas than shopping. I recently read a Christmas card that clearly reveals what our focus should be this Christmas.

**"If our greatest need was for information, God would have sent an educator."  
"If our greatest need was for technology, God would have sent a scientist."  
"If our greatest need was for pleasure, God would have sent an entertainer."  
"If our greatest need was for money, God would have sent an economist."  
BUT SINCE OUR GREATEST NEED IS FOR FORGIVENESS, GOD SENT A SAVIOR.**

***Dear God of peace, as I welcome your son once again on this Christmas day, transform me into his image. Amen.***

Ron Newhouse - [www.devotions.net](http://www.devotions.net)

*Thanks be to GOD*

*For His Indescribable Gift!*

II Corinthians 9:15

