



GPA Missions
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In This Issue:
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

Page 1
Christmas in Wales
By: Dr. Gary S. Moore

Page 2
Article conclusion
Upcoming Events

Page 3
Abide in Him
By: Sheri Edwards

Page 4
2023 Giving Tues-
day



Christmas In Wales

By: Dr. Gary S. Moore

Luke 2:4-5

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

This first Christmas, the birth of our Saviour, Joseph and Mary were not in their home town. They left Nazareth and traveled to Bethlehem, a distance of about ninety miles. The journey would have taken at least four days and with Mary “great with child” it probably took at least one extra day. Once they arrived, Mary, now five days from home and family, went into labor. So it was for the first

Christmas.

Have you ever spent a Christmas away from home and family? Many do; some are in the military, some have to travel for work, some are estranged from family and perhaps even live on the streets, but for whatever reason many spend one or more Christmases away from home. I believe it was 1986, Helen and I, along with Michael and Rebekah, found ourselves on the mission field in Wales when Christmas time arrived. We had moved in October so we were just getting settled during the season. We had no cell phones, no laptop computer or iPad, only a telephone in the hall and we only called family about once a month because

phone calls to the States were two dollars a minute back then. It was a little rough that year. Looking back on our years in Wales I can say that some of our best Christmases were there in our little house on St Augustine Road, but the first year was lonely and more than a few tears were shed as we called our parents back in the USA. There was a deacon in the Church at Gabalfa in Cardiff named Paul Jones. He and his wife and daughter reached out to us that Christmas and invited us to spend the day with them. Of course we said yes, we had no other place to go. On Christmas morning we got up and opened presents at our house and about 9:30am we went the one

(Continued from Page One)

street over to their home. We noticed that beside the front door there was a plaque with the word "Presilly" on it, and of course I asked what that meant. We learned that most people in Wales named their house. We never named ours but it was always known as the Manse at 33, manse being the word for the Pastor's house and 33 was our address. It was the beginning of many new things we would learn that day. That Christmas Day; for the first time, we had mince pies, Christmas pudding, opened Christmas crackers, wore paper Christmas hats, and had Yorkshire pudding, which is not sweet but rather an English version of biscuits and gravy...sort of. Roslyn, their daughter, got her guitar and we sang Christmas Carols, some we had never heard before. We played games, exchanged gifts, laughed a lot and really



had a wonderful day that lasted late into the evening. I'm not sure what the day would have been like if we had spent it, just the four of us, in our little Welsh house, and I'm very glad I didn't have to find out. That Christmas was the beginning of some of our favorite times spent in that glorious island country, we still reminisce of

this day with great joy. God blessed us, what began as a sad holiday, feeling so far removed from family and long time friends, ended up as one of our very favorite memories. We were missionaries, and one way or another we had to adjust to a different country, different culture and different traditions. GPA Missions has many missionaries who are spending the holidays far away from home and family this year. Maybe you might give a missionary family a call, send them a gift or a card and remember them in your family prayers during this Christmas season. Missionary Christmases are not as difficult as it was for Joseph and Mary on their first Christmas, but they can be pretty rough. Be the answer to their prayer and make it just a little easier for at least one family this year.



Mark Your CALENDAR



March 14th 2024 Mission Partner's Dinner

The annual Mission Partner's Dinner will be held at the Palm Court of the Double Tree Resort in Lancaster, PA., on Thursday, March 14, at 7:00pm. The keynote speaker for the evening will be Lidia Dolé, our newest GPA missionary.

June 6th-15th, 2024 Mission Trip to Honduras

Join us for a life-changing Medical and Evangelistic Mission trip to Victory Baptist Church and Christian School in Comayagua, Honduras. We will be working with GPA missionaries Arvil Smith and Fernando Maldonado to provide VBS, Medical and Dental care and evening evangelistic services.

2024 Boot Camps aboard Mercy's Vessel

Spend a week onboard Mercy's Vessel in Gulfport, Mississippi. Participants will earn certification in CPR, Emergency First Aid, and Food Safety and Preparation, as well as get familiar with all the ship systems (including docking and undocking) after a short trip out to sea. Weeks available: June 24-29, July 22-27, and August 19-24



Abide in Him
By: Sheri Edwards

One of the greatest things my husband has taught me about Bible Study is to think about who was saying/writing it, where they were as they spoke/wrote, and to whom they were saying/writing it. It transformed the way I read the Bible, and it helped me today as I struggled internally over life.

This morning I poured my coffee and went out on my porch to check the yard and animals. I stood there looking at how much grass I need to mow and how much weeding needs to be done - then my brain went into overdrive. You know how it is. Problem after problem flooded my mind. It was just after 5am and I already felt myself getting antsy and fearful. An emptiness overcame me, and I started tearing up. I knew, right then, that I needed to go open my Bible, so I did. I read John 14 & 15. Then I referred to the questions my husband has taught me to ask. I had forgotten the importance of the answers to these questions concerning these chapters, but God reminded me. Jesus was speaking to His disciples in the Upper Room in John 14, then He continued His discourse as He walked to the Garden of Gethsemane in John 15. I went back and read these chapters with all of that in mind.... and I just started weeping... but not the fearful, empty tears from before, no, it had turned into a joyful moment as I realized how much He loves us.

Jesus ends His talking in the Upper Room with a statement of obedience to the Father's will and then set about doing it. He knew everything that was about to physically happen to Him as he paid the price for our salvation. He knew the disciples were going to be tested like NEVER before, as they were

going to watch the events unfold. But He reminded them that they should rejoice because He was going to the Father and reminded them that they would not be comfortless (orphaned/fatherless). He was going to leave His Peace. I held my Bible to my chest and thanked Him for Who He is to all of us. I think we should follow His lead in obedience,



ABIDE in Him, and testify of His presence in our lives.

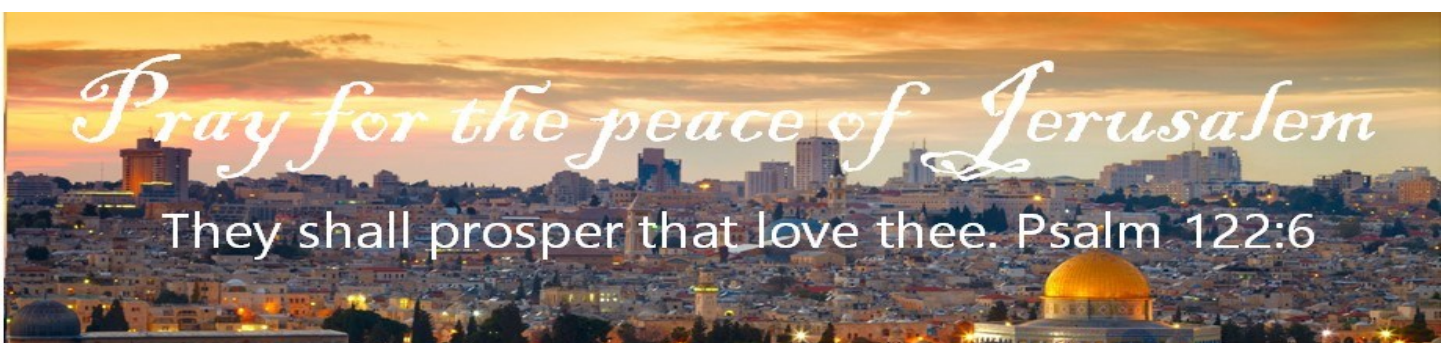
Everything He said in these chapters is pointing us to DO HIS WILL. Even when we are battling, or being purged, we can abide in Him, obey, and bear fruit. He will comfort us in our spirit as we do, and He will answer our prayers made in His will.

No matter what you are facing today, if you are a Christian, Jesus and all HIS peace resides in you. Walk with Him. Talk with Him. Abide in Him. He cares about you so much and there is no reason on earth to ignore Him. If you are at work, grab your

Bible at your break or at lunch. Read these chapters and just thank Him for walking that garden path towards betrayal. You and I put Him there because of our sins, and yet, He willingly paid the price and then offered us His Peace on top of it all. What a Savior!

We don't know what the coming days hold for Israel or the world, don't feel hopeless though. God is in control, and He gave us all we need in Jesus Christ to help us face it. *Abide in Him*. Leave it all in His capable hands. Tell others about Him and let's do His will. I hope this helps someone today as much as it has helped me. I needed it and I'm thankful for His Word to help guide me.

Only God.



Giving Tuesday

November 28th

Ways you can give to GPA Missions:

- ◇ **Join the Army of 2000 and receive The Eagle Newsletter**
For just \$5/month you can support missions around the world
- ◇ **Make a one time gift to GPA Home Office Ministry**
Support the everyday expenses of the Home Office
- ◇ **Invest in Mercy's Vessel**

Give towards the maintenance of the ship or one of these needed items:

New A/C unit for Crew Cabin #2...\$700.00
Sliding Window for Kitchen\$241.00
New Tool Box for Engine Room...\$229.00
Two Deck Boxes.....\$185.00 each
Two Generator Batteries.....\$165.00 each
Freezer Repair.....\$125.00
Six Flush Valves.....\$24.00 each

CUT HERE

Please accept my one-time gift of: _____

I would like to pledge: _____ Quarterly Monthly

I would like to give towards Medical Missions: _____

I would like to give towards Mercy's Vessel: _____

I would like to join the Army of 2000 and donate \$5.00 monthly.
You can also give online at gpamissions.com
Make checks payable to GPA Missions

I would like to be added to the email list and receive monthly updates:

Name: _____

Email Address: _____



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