

# The Family Table Talk

Reverend Donald R. Lawrence, Pastor

Volume 22 Number 8

## December • 2006



*God sent the spirit  
of his Son into our  
hearts .....  
Galatians 4:6*

*Happy Holidays*

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### Special Dates

- First day of winter, December 22, 2006
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2006
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2006
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2006

Submit all Table Talk articles  
to:

Sis. D. Baker  
dottbaker@Comcast.net

Articles must be received no  
later than the 1st Sunday of  
the month to allow adequate  
formatting and printing time.

### Come Worship With Us

Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.

Services @ 11 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: Prayer Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY: Youth Fellowship @ 8:00 p.m.

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**PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**Miami, Florida 33056**

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**Website: ParkwayMiamiGardens.org.**



## Pastor's Christmas Message

I bring you tidings of comfort and joy for that is our emphasis for December. Is this not the most wonderful time of the year? The weather is mostly pleasant, people are mostly pleasant and greetings are plentiful. Additionally there are all the special gatherings in homes, churches and communities to celebrate the season.

What is it that makes this season so special? At the heart of what this is all about is grace, favor showered upon us which we do not deserve. Indeed love came down at Christmas and in the most tender way, a child born in a manger.

*“Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign is us forever,  
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.”  
Charles Wesley, Hymn Writer*

Mary was overwhelmed, Zechariah mouth opened in shouts of deliverance and Simeon was now ready to die, for he had seen the Salvation of our God. O what else is there to see, when one has seen the favor of the Lord in the land of the living?

I am led therefore to call us to consider for the month of December the following theme:

**Christmas: Comfort and Joy in the Lord...for Ladies – the Sensitive**

...for Lords - the Strong

...for Little Ones – the Simple

...for Lowly Ones – the Saint

...for Low Ones – the Sinner

Brothers, sisters, friends, children, adults, those who hear the mirth of family laughter and those who might even be moved to tears for the absence of such laughter, there is more to hope in, for heaven has come down with glory to fill our souls. So then let us fall on our knees and hear the angels' voices, singing of night divine, the night when Christ was born.

May the Christ of Christmas reign in our hearts this season! Amen.

God's Peace

Donald R. Lawrence (Rev.)

Pastor



## A Warm Welcome To Our Guests



Rev. & Mrs. Donald Lawrence

The hymn writer longed for a thousand tongues to sing his Great Redeemer's praise. The Psalmist wanted to pay his vows in the great congregation. Consequently, we here at Parkway, appreciate the dimension your presence adds to our worship and our efforts to bear credible witness to God's love, through the various programs of the church.

In the name of Christ our Lord and this local expression of His bride, the Church, we greet you and honor your willingness to participate in the life of the Parkway Baptist Church. Many have openly testified of the love they have encountered here. It is our hope that this has been your experience. If it has not yet been so for you, certainly this is our aim and the calling we have to fulfill.

We therefore pledge the openness of our hands and hearts to you, as we continue in our quest to be obedient to Christ's calling. Further we pledge a listening ear to you, so as to be aware of your concerns and consider your suggestions. May you truly feel welcomed and unite with us here at Parkway on this Christian pilgrim journey.

God's Peace!



## Eternal light

Christmas occurred when God invaded Earth in a strange and marvelous way. A special child was born to improbable parents in an unlikely place at an inconvenient time and in an unwelcoming world. Yet heaven's light pierced the darkness and shone through the life of that unique baby. That light was and is an eternal light. God's light in Christ is a saving light that can keep the world from total destruction, from the ultimate darkness. The message is always true: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV). And it never will.



## A Holiday Prayer

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift & good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, & teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, & the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.  
Amen!

~~ By Robert Louis Stevenson ~~



## Jesus the anointed

It was the custom at the time of Jesus' birth to use the word "ben" after a male child's first name. "Ben" meant "the son of." Ordinarily, Jesus would have been

known simply as Jesus ben Joseph — Jesus, son of Joseph. But he was more than ordinary; he was Christ.

The word "Christ" means "the anointed one." In biblical times, when a new king was to assume authority over Israel, he was anointed by having oil poured on his head (see 1 Samuel 10:1, NRSV).

The early Church thought of Jesus as having been anointed "King" by God. There are several New Testament texts in which Jesus is referred to as king (see Acts 17:7 and Revelation

17:14, NRSV). For Christians, the proof of Jesus' anointment as Lord, Savior and King is the Resurrection. As Peter put it: "This Jesus God raised up. ... Therefore let ... Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah" (Acts 2:32-36, NRSV). Peter did not say King, but he would have approved of calling Christ the King of kings.

Therefore, we do well to sing "Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King.'"

*Copied*

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### FROM THE MEN'S MINISTRY:

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING'S INAUGURAL COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2007 AT 11:30 A.M.

DONATIONS: ADULTS \$25.00 CHILDREN (UNDER 12 YEARS) \$15.00

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND FROM VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!

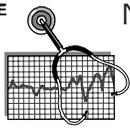


The ultimate "Measure of a Man" is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

FREE AT LAST!!! FREE AT LAST!!! FREE AT LAST!!!  
\*\*\*THANK GOD ALMIGHTY WE FREE AT LAST\*\*\*

Please direct inquiries to Bro. George West or Bro. Newton Sewell.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!



# Healthwise Report

## Male Breasts

A mild form of gynecomastia, the development of breast tissue, affects up to 70 percent of boys. Their livers can't keep up with high testosterone levels, and what the liver can't process converts to estrogen, causing painful nipples, puffy breasts or both.

This usually disappears once the liver adjust. But for some, breast growth is permanent. For adult men, recent increases in the use of steroids, certain anti-depressants, acid reflux, and blood pressure and prostate drugs are causing gynecomastia.

## Abdominal Fat & Women

During the 2005 Society for Endocrinology annual meeting in San Diego June 13, 2006, Oregon Health & Science University researchers shared data that explains why middle-aged women develop central body fat. Scientists observed a group of 46 pre- and postmenopausal women and determined the drop in estrogen levels associated with menopause is linked to an increase in the hormone cortisol. Postmenopausal women not receiving hormone replacement therapy had higher cortisol levels than those who were receiving therapy. These untreated women with higher cortisol levels also witnessed an increase in abdominal fat.

## Marriage & Mental Health

Ohio State University, Columbus, researchers found people who experience depression before they marry will reap emotional health benefits from marriage. On a depression scale, the scores of depressed people went down 8 points after marriage, compared to a 2-point drop after marriage for the non-depressed. Study results were presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, in Montreal, and reported in *Health Day*

Copied. *Advance For Nurses*. 2006

Submitted by C. Harding

## Thank You !

Parkway Baptist Church Members & Friends

During the time of sorrow we learn how much our friends really mean to us.

The Campbell Family

Thank you so much for your kindness and sympathy. It was deeply appreciated.

Most assuredly, we have felt your prayers, your compassion and your caring spirit.

"May God forever bestow

His blessings upon you"

The Baker Family

Sister Dorothy, Derrick and Darryl Baker

## WEE CARE NEWS

Wee Care Christmas Program took place on Friday December 8th. The children did a fantastic job. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a success. The Christmas party for the children took place on Friday, December 15th, inspite of the weather the children had a wonderful time. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Kelvin Nelson, "Jump into Joy". We are grateful to the parents who provided the refreshment for the occasion. The Wee Care Wishes everyone a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL 2007.**

Geneta Campbell, Director



## Paint on the Wall

There once was a church upon a hill where everything was fine until the paint inside was getting old and peeling in some spots, I'm told. The pastor called a business meeting. And after the preliminary greeting, the deacons cried "Come one! Come all! What color should we paint each wall?"

They gathered in the sanctuary, each determined and contrary. Sister Gail said, "What do you think about a very chartreuse pink?" Brother Dave said, "I

prefer a subtle blue. It makes the walls look clean and new." Six women rebuked, "We wanted gold! It seems much warmer. Blue's too cold!" A man in the back began to bellow, "Yellow! Yellow! Yellow! Yellow!" The pastor said, "I'm here more than all of you I agree with Dave. The walls should be blue." From that point on their voices grew stronger. Each emotional plea became longer and longer. Then a voice of strong and stern love silenced the church as it spoke from above.

"You wonder why you can't hear My call when your greatest struggle is paint on the wall. Paint your church the pale color of skin, for

you let no other races come in. Paint your church a wealthy green, for you ignore starvation that you've seen. Paint it white and clean as uncalloused feet, for you refuse to share My joy on the street. I agree that your wall should be painted in blue, for your hearts so cold are given to few.

You give many renditions of church as a game, but you fail to give water in My Holy Name.

You pray using eloquent thees and thous and yet you forget about the heres and nows.

You struggle to be an earthly saint, but My love must not be covered in paint.

Submitted by Karen Embden

Copied Life Answers Learner Guide. Nov. 2006