

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith.”*

**December 25, 2011**

**Remember in your prayers:**

- Tammy & Aaron's friends **Tim and Andrea Hall's infant son** passed away last night. Their son was born at 25 weeks and lived only 3 1/2 weeks. The Halls are members of the church in Texas.
- **Brian Kelley** had his surgery this week and is recovering at home.
- **Sarabeth Upton** is still having problems with her auto immune system and is still on oxygen.
- **Marvine Trigg, Margie Glaze, Kara Harrison, Rhonda Knowles and Tommy Thompson** continue to need our prayers.
- **Macon Horne, Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xavian Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice, Victor Holmes and Marvin Dryer's mother**, as they battle cancer. **Frances Flowers** (Alzheimer)
- **Heather Flowers**, who is away at college; **Sawyer Jones, Jeremiah Hughes, Robert Langley** & all of **our servicemen** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel**; especially those who labor under hardships.

❖ The Chronological daily bible reading schedules are available in the foyer

**BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Bible Class** at Donaldson- Every Wednesday @ 10:00
- **Sunday Prison Service** at Donaldson, Next Sunday- January 1, 2012

**Area Gospel Meetings:**

No notices received this week.

***Can You March Without Music?***

It is said that Benedict Arnold was a better general than George Washington. He was a handsomer man and a more interesting conversationalist. But he had one conspicuous weakness -- he was unable to "MARCH WITHOUT MUSIC." Whenever General Benedict Arnold performed a task in a competent manner, he expected praise and acclaim, and if these were not forthcoming, he sulked and became morose.

In the hurry and scurry of the war there were times when the feats of General Arnold went unnoticed. This hurt in his most vital spot -- his vanity. So he committed a terrible act -- he quit his job and placed the secrets of his country in the hands of the enemy.

Many people in the world, and some of them in the Lord's church, are a lot like Benedict Arnold. If things don't go to suit them, or if they feel that they have been neglected or slighted, or that their talents are not appreciated, they sell out to the devil. It is evident that such people will not work unless they are "IN THE LIMELIGHT."

Now we all like the sweet music of applause and we should "Give honor to whom honor is due," but let's always remember when the applause does not come promptly and when people seem not to notice, the real man, the worthy man, marches on -- without music.

*- by A. W. Criswold*

# The Banner of Truth

Black Creek church of Christ  
1235 Alliance Rd; Alliance, Alabama  
436-4477

*“You have given a BANNER to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the TRUTH. “ Psalms 60:4*

Editor:

Van Cooper

**Schedule of Services**

**Lord's Day**

**9:30 A.M. Bible Classes**

**10:25 A.M. Worship**

**5:00 P.M. Worship**

**Wednesday**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Elders**

Philip Jacks 436-3055  
Truman Wallace 483-7016  
Van Cooper 491-9695

**Deacons**

Keith Chaney 491-1596  
Roger Key 491-3723

**Evangelist**

Sammy Bynum 368-3511

**Who We Are:** The Black Creek Church of Christ is simply a group of Christians dedicated to serving God. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and it is to be our sole guide. We are committed to preaching the gospel of Christ, which is man's only hope for eternal life.

We are interested in helping anyone who is searching for the way to God. We welcome the opportunity to privately study the Bible with you. If you would contact us, we would be happy to meet with you. In addition, you are invited to visit one of our public assemblies (information is above). At our public Bible studies, we have classes for adults and children of all ages. If we can help you in knowing more about God and His Word, then please visit, call, or write us.

(Visit us on-line at ( [WWW.blackcreekchurch.com](http://WWW.blackcreekchurch.com) )

## The Myths of Christmas

Christmas is a date surrounded by myths, legends, and falsehoods. Worst of all, it's a date into which the birth of Christ was inserted out of sequence. It's certain that Jesus was not born during this time of year. But, ironically, the fact of his birth is what is most true, out of all the things that people think about during Christmas.

The myths could be easily resolved with a light reading of the New Testament, actually, of the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which contain the story of Jesus on earth.

What is most worrisome is what the yuletide myths say about religion.

### FAITH IN MAN

The faith of many today is nothing more than a human production. Their beliefs do not have their origin, as they should, in Holy Scripture, but people get their religious data for their faith from others. A second-hand faith. A faith that depends upon a priest, pope, pastor, preacher, religious Authority with a capital A, for its content and exercise.

But the warning is ancient: "This is what the Lord says: 'Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord.'" (Jeremiah 17.5 NLT)

Whenever one deposits in man one's dependence of faith, that confidence will be betrayed.

### GOOD BUT SHORT SENTIMENTS

Christmas is a moment for the expression of positive sentiments, endearing terms, family gatherings, fraternal greetings. Any occasion that cultivates the finer attitudes of humanity is welcome.

When these, however, are based upon a weak or insufficient base, the house falls and the sentiments soon pass. Artificial climates cannot permanently sustain human goodness. The yuletide and new year greetings soon give way to the frantic pace of business, school, money, and materialism, if they were ever far removed.

### DEEP ANALYSIS

The myths of Christmas invite us to perform a deep analysis of our faith. The hope of eternal life depends upon the truth of the gospel. If our truth is a lie, if our light is darkness, our hope will be in vain. As Jesus said, "But when

your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!" (Matthew 6:23).

If we permit myths and falsehoods to invade a story as simple and straightforward as the birth of Jesus, the risk increases that they have also permeated other parts of the message of salvation.

### THE SOLUTION: TO KNOW SCRIPTURE

For one who desires to draw near to God, there is no substitute for the knowledge of the Scriptures, for they testify about Christ (John 5:39). By the Scriptures one reaches the conclusion that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 18:28). In Scripture God's message is accessible, "near," in one's mouth and heart (Romans 10:8).

In Scripture we find what cannot be discovered elsewhere. "Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled" (Romans 15:4). It is they which give "the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

We must learn the great religious principle: "Nothing beyond what

is written" (1 Corinthians 4:6 NRSV). This is why the Scriptures must be read in the public meetings of the church (1 Timothy 4:13).

And not only in public.

### READ THE BIBLE CONSTANTLY

Inspired Scripture provides for every need. With it, and only with it, are we complete as Christians and laborers in his field (2 Timothy 2:16-17).

The Christian breathes the word of God. He lives with an open Bible. The Bible is not a mere symbol, but life itself.

In the new year, let us read the sacred Scriptures. Let us leave aside the myths of Christmas, the falsehood of religion. Let us live the true faith that depends solely on God our Father. That hears the voice of the Lord Jesus. That travels confidently toward the eternal home. by **J. Randal Matheny**