



Missionary Messenger

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January
2024

Three Kings Day

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." ~ Matthew 2:1-2 (BSB)

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great delight. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. ~ Matthew 2:9-11(BSB)

I always wondered what the twelve days of Christmas meant. It turns out that our Christian ancestors celebrated a day called Three Kings Day. This celebration took place exactly twelve days after Christmas. This celebration was in honor of the Magi who brought Jesus gifts after seeing the star in the east and setting out on a journey to find the new-born king. Three Kings Day falls on January 6th. Some of the other names of this holiday are: Little Christmas, Denha, Theophany, Día de Los Reyes, and the Baptism of Jesus. I do not believe there were only three kings traveling because it would be very dangerous to only have three people wandering around carrying gold and other valuable objects. However, this is Christian tradition that there were three.

One of the traditions of this day is that children leave out their shoes filled with treats for the wisemen's camels. They would fill these shoes with hay, corn, or even sugar cubes. These treats would be gone in the morning and in their place would be small gifts for the children. This would be similar to our stocking tradition. In Latin America the Magi are more prominent than Santa Claus. In the USA, before the 1960's, Christians would go wassailing on the twelfth night. This means that they would go caroling in their neighborhoods and would receive food and drink for their efforts. "Now bring us some figgy pudding...."

I personally like this tradition because it highlights that the wisemen didn't see Jesus lying in a manger. They arrived at a house and Jesus is described as being a child of 2-3 years old not as a baby. Another thing that I like about this tradition is that it makes the holidays last a little longer. December 26th seems so anticlimactic to me. Some Christians do add this day to their celebration and they call it Boxing Day. This is the day in which they box up their Christmas leftovers and visit friends. However, the celebration of Three Kings Day would make the holidays last until the first week in January. You could also get great bargains in the after Christmas sales. Anyway, I thought that this was fascinating and that it would make a good newsletter article. Either way, happy Three Kings Day to everyone!

Read more at: <https://www.orangeleader.com/2020/01/04/facts-about-three-kings-day/>

In Christ, Pastor Ken



CONNECTION NOTES:

Wax Heart vs. Wind in Sails

As we approach a new-year, my mind and my devotions have been focusing on restoration and renewal of my heart and spirit.

Sometimes it is so easy to be disappointed, distracted or discouraged. (I know...a lot of D words!) It is a common condition. And the evil one likes to use this tool on us. I reviewed one of David's Psalms today. In Psalm 22:14, David records the following: "My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me." I think most of us would say-been there, done that!!!! The situation was not good for evil was at hand. Evil that sought to kill and destroy. The next 4 verses of chapter 22 continued to look around at the dire situation.

About verse 19 the focus shifts! Eyes are raised upward. The writer began to focus on our One Eternal, All-powerful God! By verse 22 the writer declares "I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you." The final words of this chapter conclude with the proclamation "He has done it!"

As I face 2024, I need to remember to focus on Christ, the one who is Able! So my prayer to begin 2024 is found in Psalms 51:12. Psalm 51:12 in the Message says it clearly. "Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails!" (the joy of my salvation).

Jesus, "put a fresh wind in my sails!". Pray with me that Christ will help us return our focus to Him and renew our joy.

Happy New Year!

Sue

Memory Verse of the Month!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (BSB)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

Saturday 1/6/2024, noon

Friends, Flannels and Flapjacks:

Join us for a late brunch and a time of decompressing after the holidays. We will have a flannel craft after the meal for anyone wanting to take part. If you want to embellish your own bleached flannel shirt, please have it bleached, dried, and ready to go.

February 2/11/2024

Evening: time to be determined SuperB Owl Party!

Bring a snack and enjoy. We will have game night! (Psst...This has nothing to do with owls.)



Happy New Year! 2024 ... can we say time is moving fast? This month is going to be great!

Sunday school is at 9am; come explore the word!

Kids kingdom has been filled with laughter, learning memory verses, painting classes, and a birthday party for Jesus!

This new year will start out with celebrating in style! In January we will be exploring how Jesus was as a kid! Come find out what Jesus was doing at your age! We will see the 33 years Jesus lived on earth. See you Sunday!

Mens and womens Bible studies will be back up and running soon... welcome 2024!

Amanda, Education Director

Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:

Christian Ed: Amanda Burns

Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk

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DECEMBER 2023 HAPPENINGS

