

NEW SONG YOUTH IN ACTION

December 2006



FULL CONTACT MINISTRY

Christmas is my favorite time of year. To me it is special for a number of reasons. I love to shop (what female doesn't). I used to really like receiving gifts, but I think I enjoy searching for that perfect gift to give to those I love even more. I enjoy baking those sweet treats that are really bad for our thighs. I enjoy the extended visits with family members. But, more importantly than that, I am reminded of the birth of our SAVIOR. I think we often forget the importance of Christ's birth. Sometimes the celebration of His birth gets tangled up in the mix of all the other festivities. We say we are celebrating His birth but are we really? Sure we attend the pageants, parades and even the "Christmas parties" at church. But are we really looking at His birth with an open heart. I just noticed something. Look at the word HEART and what do you see? I see two important words, EAR and HEAR. We can't open our hearts unless we Hear God's voice with our Ears.

OK I realize that not everyone can hear. What I mean is that we better understand Christ's birth and other significant information about our God by "listening" closely. When we listen to the message of God, we allow it to sink deep in our heart and we in turn live what is in our hearts. Hmmm!!! How do we accomplish this, through reading His word and spending time down on our knees not just making requests but to really listen to what he is saying to us.

Psalm 119:105 "I will hide His words in my heart that I might not sin against God."

We can't hide His words in our heart unless we first hear his message.

Anyway, back to my initial thoughts. Christ was given to us as a gift. God Loved us so much that he wanted to offer to us a gift unlike anything we could imagine giving to those we love most. Do you appreciate the gift?

I have been listening to the song sung by Lee Ann Womack called the Nativity. She talks about the nativity decoration as she was growing up and thinking about whether she would live out her purpose had she been right there with Jesus. Here are the words to the chorus.

"...Imagining what I would do if I had been were there inside Chorus: Would I kneel beside the manger? Worship

him on my knees. Would I be of any service to the savior soon to be?

Could I persuade the unknowing to accept him in their home? If I were there with Jesus would I help to right the wrong?"

This song reminds me of my purpose and that is to serve. Look at the picture of Santa and the baby. When a baby is born, we have a responsibility to serve that baby, to feed it, change it and tend to the baby's every need. When the baby grows up, he or she will return the favor by serving another. Jesus grew and served us by accepting our death sentence and paying the price. Are we thanking Him with our lives by serving others?

May this Christmas season open up your heart to hear the message of Christ in a way you have not heard before. Look at those around you through the eyes of Christ and learn to "Love your neighbor AS yourself" Matthew 22:39

Let's Read

Don't forget to Read from Exodus, if you aren't reading you are holding up the rest of the group. Let's do this together and hold each other accountable. I have already seen something different since having to read Chaps. 1-5 twice. Ok, I confess, I didn't finish 5 the first time. You have my permission to check on me too!!!

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

Wednesday 13th Meet @ Tinsiltown to watch "The Nativity" don't forget your money. If you can't afford the movie let me know ASAP and we will make sure you can go.

Sunday 17th Special Christmas Service P.M.
Need you all there!!

Happy



Birthday!!!

Jesus

December 25th

Don't Forget!!!

Keep collecting those cell phones. I almost have a full box to send. Bring 20 cell phones by Dec 31 and receive a free Christian Music CD of your choice.