

Pastor's Pen

Closed!

And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Matthew 28:9

The first worship service of our Lord is recorded in Matthew 28:9. Ever since that first Resurrection Sunday, believers for two millenniums have worshiped the risen Savior every Sunday. Did you know that the first country to see the new day is in the Pacific Ocean, and the country's name is Kiribati? It is 17 hours ahead of us, and they worshiped our Lord on Sunday. As this Sunday began, Christians gathered to celebrate the risen Savior all over the world. Christians continue to gather on Sundays to do precisely what the first Christians did back in the First Century, "And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers (Acts 2:42)."

You might be thinking, what does this have to do with Christmas? This year Christmas will fall on a Sunday. Some churches, even local evangelical churches, will not gather to worship but have told their families to celebrate Christmas at home. Even if churches are open, many who claim to be Christians will stay home so they can enjoy Christmas morning with their families. Please understand me. I am no scrooge, but Christmas will not get in my way of worshiping with other believers. Celebrate Christmas as you feel led but don't forget that the celebration of the birth of the Savior is a reminder that He was born to die by the hands of sinful men, born to take on Himself the wrath of God against our sin, and to reconcile sinners to God.

I recently learned of a believer from North Korea who came to saving faith through a Chinese pastor. This individual met Pastor Han on the China side of the border. God used Pastor Han to convert the man and gave him a Korean Bible. In North Korea, to become a Christian is to become a criminal.

The consequences of a believer being found out are, at a minimum you and every member of your family is placed in a concentration camp. Eventually, Pastor Han, who was reported to have converted over a thousand North Koreans, was assassinated by a North Korean hit squad. Suppose that this North Korean man could escape and flee to the Richmond area. He is so excited to be able to worship His Savior with other believers, so he shows up on Christmas morning to worship at a church with three services every Sunday morning. However, to his dismay, a Christian Church has a sign that reads, "Merry Christmas. We are closed today so our pastors can celebrate Christmas with their families". Next Sunday, December 25th, we will gather as a body of believers to celebrate the birth of our Savior and His Resurrection. At Grace Harvest, we will gather as a body of believers every Sunday to worship Jesus, just as Mary worshiped Him on that first Resurrection Sunday.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"Behold, what manner of love is this, that Christ should be arraigned and we adorned, that the curse should be laid on His head and the crown set on ours."
-Thomas Watson

Grace Gems

10 Questions to Ask at a Christmas Gathering
(Don Whitney)

Many of us struggle to make conversation at Christmas gatherings, whether church events, work-related parties, neighborhood drop-ins, or annual family occasions. Sometimes our difficulty lies in having to chat with people we rarely see or have never met.

At other times we simply don't know what to say to those with whom we feel little in common. Moreover, as Christians we want to take advantage of the special opportunities provided by the Christmas season to share our faith, but are often unsure how to begin.

Here's a list of questions designed not only to kindle a conversation in almost any Christmas situation, but also to take the dialog gradually to a deeper level. Use them in a private conversation or as a group exercise, with believers or unbelievers, with strangers or with family.

1. What's the best thing that's happened to you since last Christmas?
2. When was your best Christmas ever? Why?
3. What's the most meaningful Christmas gift you've ever received?
4. What was the most appreciated Christmas gift you've ever given?
5. What was your favorite Christmas tradition as a child?
6. What is your favorite Christmas tradition now?
7. What do you do to try to keep Christ in Christmas?
8. Why do you think people started celebrating the birth of Jesus?
9. Do you think the birth of Jesus deserves such a worldwide celebration?
10. Why do you think Jesus came to earth?

Of course, remember to pray before your Christmas gatherings. Ask the Lord to grant you "divine appointments," to guide your conversations, and to open doors for the gospel. May He use you to bring glory to Christ this Christmas.



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study and AWANA!



Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 12/11/2022

General Offering	30,343.22
Building Fund	964.60
Uganda	1,305.00
Total.....	32,612.82
Attendance.....	216
Sunday School.....	164
Online.....	26
**SOS Matching Grant so far 2022....	\$3,560.00
**SOS Matching Grant 2021....	\$14,500.00

Build the Body Ministries

- Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
- AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
- Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
- Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
- Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
- Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
- Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
- Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
- Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
- Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
- Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
- Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
- Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest
Baptist Church
go • gather • grow • go



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome