

# THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

- 1** To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
- 2** To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
- 3** To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
- 4** To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.
- 5** To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

From Unplug the Christmas Machine | by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppic



## WINTERJAM

A New Year's Eve / for Teens-Youth feat. **Dakota Trogden**  
Clinton, Arkansas

Saturday, December 31, 2016 / 7:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

**FOOD | MUSIC | GAMES | PRAISE | WORSHIP**

## AWAKENING

R E V I S E D

Start strong and join us for a season of fasting, prayer, and personal direction. **January 9-29** we plan to set aside **21 days to pray, fast, and seek God** to believe Him for a new season of grace and miracles in our lives, the lives of others, our church, and the world.

Instead of the Daniel Fast, we plan to have a sign-up sheet for participants to fast on a select day or days.

### CONNECTION CARDS

Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card in order to **"MEASURE"** our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.

# Pursuing the KING

DECEMBER TEACHING SERIES

Dec 04 » The King's Promise

Dec 08 » The King's Plan

Dec 18 » The King's Presence

Dec 23 » The King's Presents

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### ▶ THINKING - OF - YOU PRAYER

Breanna V. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noe F. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annabelle G. ▶ Lung Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenny D. ▶ Neurological	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny L. ▶ Peace Corps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trevor W. ▶ Afghanistan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moe M. ▶ Lung Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ralph H. ▶ Fluid in the brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lotz Family ▶ Family Grief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzie S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phyllis L. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb D. ▶ Bone Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Donald S. ▶ Addictions	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### ▶ URGENT PRAYER

Peggy H. ▶ Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emma G. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb S. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mary Ellen H. ▶ Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toni R. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dean W. ▶ Recovering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peggy K. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"This is Christmas: Not the presents, not the carols, but the humble heart that receives the wondrous gift of Christ."*

11/27/16

33 ATTENDANCE    \$913 GIVING    4 GUESTS  
17 VOLUNTEERS    0 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

METRICS ▶ THAT MATTER



<sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

— *Matthew 6:33-34* —

**Whatever force has first place  
in our lives will drive our decisions  
and shape our futures**

## THREE GAME CHANGERS



*God has a way for our lives*



*We don't have to carry the weight of our life alone*



*God's way is better than ours*

*The Promise: "all these things will be given to you as well."*

— **Matthew 6:33** —

— **Promise** —

*"Seek first the kingdom of God"*

*"Seek... his righteousness"*

*"All these things will be given to you"*

*God promises a new family*

*God promises a new life*

*God promises a new freedom*

## WORRY ISSUES

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? *Matthew 6:25-27* <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. *Matthew 6:31-32* ✨



**A life of anxiety is never an issue of unmet need but always an issue of disordered priorities... when order is restored, blessing is released.**

# THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST THINGS

26 “No one, however, may dedicate the firstborn of an animal, since the firstborn already belongs to the LORD; whether an ox or a sheep, it is the LORD’s. *Leviticus 27:26*”

## *There are four things we must understand about the Principle of First Things.*

- 1** First, the first governs all the rest. God tells us that the beginning of something governs or sets the direction of all the rest that follow. The root of a tree determines what kind of tree it will be.
- 2** Second, the first represents the totality. Whenever God told Moses to send a group to represent either the nation or a tribe, the firstborn were always sent to represent the rest.
- 3** Next, the first always belongs to the Lord. God lays claim to ownership of everything that is first. God tells us that because the first belongs to him, the firstborn is to be redeemed or doomed to destruction.
- 4** Last, the first redeems the rest. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice as a lamb to redeem the world from sin.

## THE GOD-FIRST LIFE

- The King (Jesus) is not against happiness. He redefines it for us. The things that we fret about having: money, love, material possessions, security, and popularity—Jesus says we don’t need to strive for those things or worry about getting them.
- There is nothing wrong with money and stuff.
- The trouble comes when we make acquiring those things our primary goal in life.
- The primary thing we should wish for, crave, and diligently seek is God.
- And when this proper order is restored, the blessing (the things that will be “given” to us as well) is released into our lives.

# DEC 2016 EVENTS



**THU**  
**01** Bible Study / Off-Campus  
*McHenry*

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SUN**  
**04** Praise Team REHEARSAL / PRAYER  
Worship / Communion / Young Adults

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TUE**  
**06** Praise Team  
REHEARSAL

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SUN**  
**11** Praise Team REHEARSAL / PRAYER  
Worship

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**THU**  
**15** Bible Study / Off-Campus  
*McHenry*

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SUN**  
**18** Praise Team REHEARSAL / PRAYER  
Worship / Guest Speaker: Stan Scism

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**FRI**  
**23** Christmas Service  
Praise Team REHEARSAL / PRAYER Worship

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**SAT**  
**24** Christmas Eve

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SUN**  
**25** Christmas

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**FRI**  
**30** New Year's Service  
Praise Team REHEARSAL / PRAYER Worship

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SAT**  
**31** Winterjam / Teens & Youth with  
Dakota Trogden

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
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