



# THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

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- 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

## BASSOON SOLO

Kerri Wozniak will perform a bassoon solo this morning. "Angels We Have Heard On High".

## NEW ADDRESS

Barb Smith has a new address. Please make a note of it: **120 S. State Street #706 Elgin, Illinois 60120, Tel. 224.760.7418**

## AWAKENING

Start strong and join us for a season of fasting, prayer, and personal devotion. **January 4-24**, we plan to set **aside 21 days to pray, fast, and seek God** to believe Him for miracles in our lives, the lives of others, our church, and the world. An **Awakening Guide Sheet** will be printed to provide you with important information regarding the effort.

**CONNECTION CARD** 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.





December Teaching Series

# EXPECT the Unexpected

- Nov 29 / The Unexpected Gift
- Dec 06 / The Unexpected Way
- Dec 13 / The Unexpected Place
- Dec 20 / The Unexpected Time

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Breanna V.	▶ Health Issues
Lily M.	▶ Dementia
Anabelle G.	▶ Lung Cancer
Andrew H.	▶ Health Issues
Noe F.	▶ Health Issues
Elizabeth S.	▶ Health Issues
Kenny D.	▶ Skull Fracture
Trevor W.	▶ Deployed to Afghanistan
Danny L.	▶ Peace Corps Assignment
Sean L.	▶ Loss of His Brother
Ralph H.	▶ Fluid in the brain
Moe M.	▶ Lung Cancer
Ruth S.	▶ Undiagnosed Health Issues
Jim B.	▶ Eye Problems
Mary H.	▶ Mobility Issues
Jane G.	▶ Hospice Care
Darryck T.	▶ Spiritual Strength
Bill L.	▶ Post-Surgical Healing
Suzie S.	▶ Health Issues
Larry C.	▶ Stroke
Carol J.	▶ Heart Attack
Emma G.	▶ Pnuemonia

**OUR CONDOLENCES...** to Sandra (Emma's sister) and Carlos Valles at the passing of Carlos' mother, Mercedes Valles. Pray that the family would be comforted in their grief.

**PROJECT ACCESS SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46** Thanks to all who gave so generously to **Project Access** so that homeless children would receive Christmas. Dr. Terri Dallas wants to thank each of you for your generosity—you went above and beyond. May you be truly blessed!

12/13/15



32 ATTENDANCE \$1,105<sup>25</sup> GIVING

1 GUESTS 10 VOLUNTEERS

0 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST



# EXPECT *the* Unexpected



# The Unexpected Time


<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. **Luke 2:4-7**



## There Are Over **350 PROPHECIES** About The Birth Of Christ



There is solid  
confirmation  
about:

- His credentials as Messiah.
  - His claims as the Son of God and Savior.
  - His unique life in comparison to all the other religious leaders in the world.
  - Our hope and confidence that He and He alone is the one to whom we must look for salvation and the meaning of life.
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## His Ordinary **BIRTH**



- His birth was supernatural, but the conditions of his birth and upbringing were very ordinary.
- The time of his birth was during a required journey that his parents undertook to Bethlehem to register for the census ordered by Caesar Augustus.
- Prophecies foretold his coming and his place of birth, yet, when he arrived, very few were aware of it.
- People had looked for Messiah but after hundreds of years of waiting, they lost their focus.

**HE ARRIVED AT AN UNEXPECTED TIME...**

# *Some People Believed* **IN GOD'S PROMISE**

**SIMEON:** *a priest who served in the Temple observing the prescribed rituals.*

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

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<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." **Luke 2:25-32**



**ANNA:** *a prophetess who served in the Temple Courts praying and fasting—thanking God for His faithfulness.*

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

<sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. **Luke 2:36-38**