



## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

**Jim Brannon**

I used to think that grandparents were obnoxious in their “carrying on” about their grandkids. Now that I am one, I’m more obnoxious than any and I don’t care! But Brady’s coming into my life has given me an opportunity to reflect on some things that age tends to dim. “Little” things that really are “big” things when you take the time to view them from the perspective of what really counts.

Like the difference between “childishness” and “childlikeness”. It doesn’t take much to bring wonder to a child’s eyes. Children are so trusting and genuinely naïve. They can find as much pleasure in playing with the Tupperware as with a very expensive toy. Momentary hurts are quickly forgotten and they never nurture those hurts or carry resentment. How much we could benefit from being more “childlike”.

And what about the child’s ability to live in the moment. They don’t plan their calendars. They are not worried about tomorrow. They don’t have any schedule conflicts. They don’t have any wardrobe issues. A ride in the shopping cart is as exciting as a roller coaster! Simple pleasures suffice. M&Ms are as good as filet mignon, and not nearly as expensive! Is it possible for us adults to be satisfied with less and happier if we “down sized”?

Brady has taught me how much joy can be had from sitting in a recliner with him napping peacefully in the fold of my arm or with his head on my shoulder. I’m never in a hurry for him to wake up. I don’t feel the need to check my email or catch up on Facebook. My preoccupations seem to disappear as I watch him sleep and feel the warmth of his little body next to mine.

Don’t you suppose that’s how God feels about us? How He loves to have us crawl up in his great big Lap so He can have some time with us...to experience the closeness of the bond between a Father and child. No agenda! No requests! No worries! Just the precious adjustment of our heart beat to His as we rest on his shoulder or in the crook of His arm!

God bless all of you! May you know the love that this pastor has for you and may this be one of the most blessed and merry Christmases that you have ever known!



## MEN'S MINISTRY

**Cris Alexander**

Christmas has changed a lot since I was a boy. So much of the focus has shifted from the traditional to the commercial. What was once a season of celebrating Christ's birth has turned into ground zero for retailers. Certainly it was that way to some degree when I was a kid back in the 1960s, but it was nowhere near what it is today. The "holiday shopping season" now starts in October if not before, and retailers count on holiday shopping for a large percentage of their year's take, so we're bombarded with holiday ads starting not long after Labor Day.

Our culture's so-called "tolerance" of beliefs other than our Christian faith has pushed out "Merry Christmas!" in favor of "Happy Holidays!" Lawsuits are filed each year by anti-Christian or atheist groups or individuals to push nativity scenes from public property. The focus of our culture is anywhere but on Christ during the Christmas season.

I find all of that a little depressing, and sometimes I get a little blue in December as I recall much more traditional and Christ-centered Christmases of years gone by. But then I am reminded that it doesn't matter a whit what my culture thinks or does. None of that can change the truth that God sent His Son into this world, a flesh and blood baby, who grew and ministered and bled and died for my sins, and now He is alive forevermore, amen! Now that's something I can get excited about. That's something to drive back the "holiday blues!"

Because of all the Christmas activities in our fellowship this month, the RBC men's group is taking a month off from our regular monthly breakfast and Bible study, but we'll be back on Saturday, January 21. See you in church, and Merry Christmas!



## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**Jeanne Fruh**

“As you enter a time of private prayer, let your first focus be to give thanks to God for the unspeakable love that invites you to come to Him and to converse freely with Him. If your heart is cold and dead, remember that your faith is not a matter of feeling but first involves the will. Raise your heart to God and thank Him for the assurance you have that He looks down on you and will bless you. Through such an act of faith you honor God and draw your soul away from being occupied with itself. Think also of the glorious grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is willing to teach you to pray and to give you the disposition to do so. “ (Andrew Murray, *Living A Prayerful Life*)”



## YOUTH NOTES

**Radu Pasca**

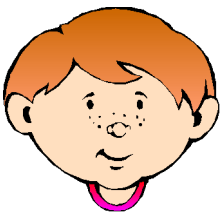
If I were sick, at Christmas I would ask for health.  
If I were blind, I would wish for sight.  
If I was an orphan, I would ask for a loving family.  
If my parents were about to divorce, I'd ask for peace and harmony.  
If my baby boy was really ill, I'd ask for a miraculous healing.  
If at Christmas I was without a job, I would beg for one.  
If I was hungry and on the streets in the cold, I would ask for a warm meal and a place to lay my head.

You see if I were blind I would not ask for a TV.  
If I were deaf, I would not ask for an iPod or iPhone.  
If my daughter had cancer I would not ask for clothes, but for her healing.  
If I was homeless I would not ask for an expensive car.

And since I'm not sick, hungry, and I have a job, I go about life just like a multitude of others, asking for things that will simply satisfy my selfishness for a very short time.

The most precious things we could ask for, most of us already have. We are blessed with families, homes, food and health. Yet, somehow we tend to take it all for granted.

Let's make sure we don't get caught up in the materialism that is associated with Christmas, but rather get preoccupied with the person of Jesus Christ.



## KIDSTUFF

**Kathy Sanders**

Here we are - on the cusp of the advent season already! Hopefully, you are preparing for a blessed



Christmas with your little ones. Schools only recognize a "Winter Holiday" and the media would have us believe that it's all about Santa and the necessity of having the latest and greatest video games. It's up to us as parents, grandparents, teachers, neighbors, etc. to help the children we have contact with understand the real "reason for the season". Let's all be a witness for the Christ child this Christmas.

Our Children's Ministry Team is again sponsoring Redeemer's Birthday Party for Jesus on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10:00 AM till 11:00 AM. One of our children's favorite activities is to build gingerbread houses, so we're going to tackle those again this year - in addition to the nativity story and special Christmas snacks. Our party is open to any child up through 5th grade and parents are MOST welcome to stay and help! If you'd like to help provide some of the "ingredients" for our houses, there is a sign up list on the bulletin board outside of the auditorium doors.



The Christmas season is upon us and our thoughts are on the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are thankful for Christmas, the celebration of the precious gift that God sent to us.

We will begin the Christmas season with our first Awana store of the year.

The children will have the opportunity to do some shopping. They have been working hard at earning their "Awana dollars." The focus of this store is in giving. Sure the kids might find something for themselves, but we are encouraging them to find something for a brother, sister or maybe even mom or dad. Ask the girls and boys how they earn Awana dollars. They will be happy to tell you. The Awana store will be Wednesday, December 7th.

On Wednesday, December 14th, it will be "Happy Birthday Jesus" night. Kids, bring your friends so they can learn what Christmas is really all about.

We will then be taking a two week break. There will be no Awana on December 21st and December 28th. Enjoy the time off with your family and friends. Awana will resume on January 4th, 2012.

Speaking of 2012, it will be the beginning of something new for our Awana clubs here at Redeemer. On Saturday, January 28th, we will be having our First Annual Awana Grand Prix. Watch for more information on this exciting new event!!



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

**Julie Zgorzynski**

*"Merry Christmas to all!"*

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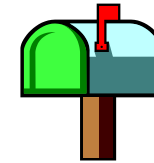
**Redeemer Baptist Church**  
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# Redeemer Reflections

*A Newsletter of Redeemer Baptist Church*  
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*December 2011*

## TO OUR OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS



Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite celebrations. It does not involve sending cards. It is not overly commercialized. It is really about family, food and fellowship. And, it provides a reminder that God is good all the time!! The RBC family had a wonderful time at our annual "Thanksgiving Feast". We are at maximum capacity for a "sit down" dinner, so not sure what we will do next year if the crowd increases! Good problem to have, don't you think!?!

Sandwiched between our annual Missions Banquet this month and Christmas Eve Communion, our family will be travelling to Florida for a graduation and trip to Disneyworld. Really looking forward to visiting with Jason and Stevie and seeing "Mickey Land" through Brady's eyes!

I'm sure you have heard that the Denver Broncos have a young quarterback named Tebow! He has polarized the nation with his unashamed and outspoken testimony for his "Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ". Every interview is begun with his thanks to Jesus and the interviews end with a "God bless". He is such a breath of fresh air to the "prima donna", ego maniacs of the NFL, who flaunt their talent and their felony convictions. If I'm the father of a teenager I'm thanking Jesus for a role model that my kid can embrace! I don't ask for God to help Tim Tebow win football games; but I do pray that God will protect him from the enemy who would love to take him down. The Broncos have improved from being the "donkeys" to being the Broncos once again!

On behalf of our church family, I extend to all of you our most sincere and warmest wishes and blessings for this Christmas. May God provide, as only He can, and may you know of the closeness of His presence in an unmistakable way. We love you!