

Park Meadows
Academy

E-NEWS

*Bringing Excellence to
Christian Education*



December 2014

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



INSIDE

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JUST GIVE ME JESUS

By Mrs. Thurston

Aaah...Christmas. The most wonderful time of the year; the twenty-fifth day of the month of December; it is the day set aside to commemorate - not the seasonal trip to Grandma's, presents beneath the tree, or even our family gathered around the table - but rather God's Gift to fallen humanity.¹ Commemorate means to call to remembrance: to serve as a memorial. A memorial is a practice that keeps the memory of something or someone alive. Therefore, Christmas was established for the purpose of keeping fresh in our hearts, and minds, the moment God became flesh and dwelt among us.² That is the origin of the celebration. Without Jesus, there is no Christmas.

For as far back as can be remembered, folks have eagerly awaited the gathering of family and friends around the Christmas tree. Colored sacks and pretty

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PROPHECIES FULFILLED!

THE PROMISED BIRTH OF CHRIST!



The music, the scripture readings, and the unified love for Christ throughout the congregation made the 2014 Park Meadows Christmas Program one to remember! The parking lot was completely packed, and the pews were overflowing with joyful families and friends.

The focal point of our program was the fulfillment of prophecy by the birth of Christ, and it was beautiful! Our high school students presented Old Testament prophecies of Christ, and then read the New Testament story of Christ's birth. Simultaneously, our elementary students played characters to reenact the Bible story. The presentation was made special by Christmas songs including: *Mary Did You Know*, *We Three Kings*, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *Away in a Manger*, and even *Noche de Paz*, which was sung entirely in Spanish.

We trust that this special event left everyone in attendance reflecting on the Savior, and we pray that you all have a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!



WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS! MEET KILEY & KADEN!



We are ecstatic to welcome brother and sister, Kaden and Kiley Chavarrilla, along with parents Kelcy and Andrew, to the PMA family!

The Chavarrilla family was introduced to our school by PMA parents Katie and Dave Huber. After learning that the family was interested in an alternative to public education, the Hubers invited the Chavarrillas to attend one of our PTF meetings. The event gave the interested parents a chance to see the values and principles on which our academy was established, as well as the opportunity to meet and visit with parents and teachers.

It didn't take us long to see that the family was a perfect fit for PMA! After the interview process, Administrator Davis and Pastor Mitchell informed the family that their children had been accepted to attend PMA. Originally, the family planned to begin attendance after the Christmas break, but when Kiley and Kaden were presented with the opportunity to take part in the Christmas Program on December 15, the family decided to enroll the children immediately!

We are grateful that God has brought us yet another wonderful family. Kaden and Kiley have brought a special spark to Mrs. Karpiak's class, and Kelcy and Andrew's positive attitudes are absolutely contagious!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

Christmas Giving!

With our new financial plan in place, the church family and visitors provide our monthly income. Please pray about how you may be able to contribute to PMA this Christmas, and in the coming year.

Remember, placing money in the "Love Offering" envelope before putting it in the offering plate will ensure that your donation goes to PMA! Thank you for your support!

PTF MEETING!

You won't want to miss our upcoming PTF meeting on January 27! Please invite friends and family and join us for the special event!

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boxes beneath a brightly decorated evergreen have become the focal point of the Christmas festivities. However, the day was not chosen to remind us of a special tree, or even the possibility of receiving some item we have long desired. Christmas is to call to mind all that was provided so many ages ago on that silent and holy night.

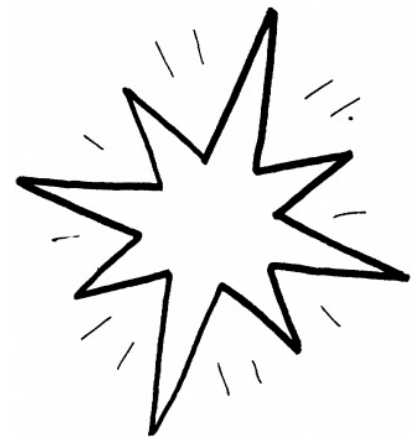
For Isaiah, it would be a prophecy fulfilled.³ For Mary, the arrival of The Promised Child.⁴ For you and me, Christmas brought The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.⁵ If there is anything we recognize, surely it is the sin of this world. There are those who have heard about the “*reason for the season*”. There are others who *know* Him.⁶ Still, all are so easily distracted by the sights and sounds of a modern, commercialized Christmas.

People go through Thanksgiving without knowing Who to thank. The four weeks following, patrons scurry from store to store until midnight of the twenty-fourth. Christmas Day everyone eats their fill, tears into presents, and collapses onto the couch. Then suddenly glasses are being raised to welcome the New Year, and Jesus has been left in the manger - or totally forgotten. Would it not be life changing to actually acknowledge our need for, and the Gift of, the Savior? Oh, the generations of children who have fallen asleep in front of the fireplace waiting on Santa to come. We have a nation of children anticipating a fat man in a red suit sliding down the chimney, to bring them whatever they want. Oh, that those same children would fall asleep talking to Jesus! Do you see where the emphasis has been placed?

Neither power tools nor diamond jewelry can fill an empty soul. Video games and high tech devices will not cause our children to be thankful. There is nothing under any tree in the land that has the power to forgive our sin and bring new life. So ask yourself, what are we celebrating? The Truth about Christmas? “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”⁷

The true meaning of Christmas has been diluted over the years. However, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.⁸ The reason we rejoice? The Male Child that Mary brought forth, will save his people from their sins.⁹ Jesus is the greatest Christmas Gift ever delivered. “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”¹⁰

Amen and Merry Christmas!



{Romans 6:23, John 3:16, John 17:3, John 1:14, Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:26-31, John 1:29, John 10:4, Isaiah 9:6, Hebrews 13:8, Matthew 1:21, II Timothy 2:5}

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- January 5 – Classes Resume!
- January 23 – 2nd Quarter Ends, Caleb Bailey's Birthday!
- January 27 – PTF Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- February 13 – Mother-Daughter Night
- February 14 – 4th Week Grading Period Ends
- February 16 – Presidents' Day – NO SCHOOL
- March 19 – Grandparents' Day

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