



# The Beacon

*A light of information & inspiration*  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Wayne Williams

260 SW Prima Vista Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983  
(772) 878-1155

Volume 52 No. 1  
January 2012

In Proverbs we are told “Where there is no vision, the people will perish.” What the writer of Proverbs is sharing with us is a bit of Wisdom that can help us to be everything that God wants us to be. If we are going to be everything that God is calling us to be; and be able to accomplish all God is calling us to accomplish then we need to seek God’s vision for our lives. The reason why is because a vision gives us that direction, inspiration and motivation that is needed to move us into a better future.

In Jeremiah chapter thirty-two the Prophet is speaking to the people of Israel and telling them that God is creating a new thing that will lead them into a better future. As he is speaking to them he is describing what that new future will look like. In other words he is giving them a vision that will direct them, inspire them and motivate them to move them forward in the new thing that God is creating.

I believe that God is creating a new thing here at First United Methodist Church, Port St. Lucie. I believe that God has given to us a new vision and mission that will lead us into a better future. I believe God is seeking to direct us and inspire us and motivate us to be more fruitful for God’s Kingdom.

On January 9, 2012 I will be starting a four week long sermon series on the new thing that God is creating. I will be presenting a New Vision and Mission Statement for the church and how this New Vision and Mission Statement will help us to move into a better and more production future. I will also be sharing with you the process that we went through to discern our New Vision and Mission and the specifics on how we can achieve the new things that God is calling us too.

This is a very exciting time in the life of our church. This is a very important time in the life of our church. It is a pivotal point that can help us to dream bigger dreams for our church and the ministries that God is calling us to. It is a time for us to move to a deeper level of spirituality and to the next level of growth and maturity. It is a time for us to begin to see the bigger things and greater things that God is seeking to create in the life of our church.

I hope that you will begin to make plans to come and see what God is doing and where God is calling us to go. This is also an excellent opportunity for you to invite friends and family to come and hear about what God is doing and how God can bring a greater transformation to our lives.

God is creating a new thing. Come and see and bring a friend.

Love, Peace, and Joy,

## Church Staff

### Assistant to the Pastor

*Dr. Rad Orlandi*

### Associate Pastor

Josias Andujar

### Church Administrator

*Gladys Dolan*

*Gladys@pslfumc.com*

### Church Secretary

*Loretta Grilley*

*Secretary@pslfumc.com*

### Director of Student Ministries

*Pam Szymczyk*

*Pampslfumc@live.com*

### Children’s Director

*Dawn Stannis*

*Dawn@pslfumc.com*

### Head Custodian

*Jose Melendez*

### Music Ministry

*Katie Scruggs*

*Joan Snouffer*

*Carol Zaring*

*Cynthia Townsend*

*M. J. Montague*

*Rainer Marin*

***Our Purpose  
We Exist:  
To Know And Share  
Jesus Christ  
To Relieve  
Suffering  
To See God Work in  
LIFE Group  
Ministry  
& To Pray About  
Everything.***

### Church Webpage

[www.pslfumc.com](http://www.pslfumc.com)

### Office Hours

**Monday - Friday**

**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**



# Youth Corner

## January Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> - Alex Campbell

7<sup>th</sup> - Emmanuel Medina

15<sup>th</sup> - Anna Horldt



The youth had a great time in December, both high school and middle school adopted a child from the Angel tree and brought money and went to Wal-Mart to shop. The High school boys bought batman cloths for our 2 year old boy and the girls bought toys.



Middle school adopted a 5 yr old boy and the boys bought the learning toys and the girls bought the clothes. We had a great time being able to help 2 families at Christmas.



The youth went to Ms. Erma Jean's and did her yard work

and then we surprised her by putting Christmas lights in her bushes and a manger scene in her front yard. The kids have such a good time helping her out.



The youth had a busy month in December. We had our Christmas party on the 18<sup>th</sup> with 57 students, lots of food, some crazy games and then we ended with a gift exchange.

We also took 24 youth Christmas caroling. We visited members in our church and sang *Jingle Bells*, *Silent Night* and *We Wish you a Merry Christmas* and then gave a small gift to brighten their holiday season.

Christmas tree sales came to an end and we wish to thank all of you who cut, bailed, set up, watered and sold trees. This is a fundraiser that requires a lot of muscle and adult help. The youth can take money, but not run the chainsaw. So we appreciate all of your help. Look in the next beacon to see what our profits were.

## January dates to remember:

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Breakfast

January 19<sup>th</sup> - Feeding Ministry



# Did You Know ???



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home has been providing services to children and families since 1908. That's over 100 years!!! Wow!!

Here are just a few of the services they provide: **Adoption Services, Foster Care Services, Residential Care & Career Development Programs.**

**Here are just a few ways that we can help the children and families at the Children's Home:**

- ♥ Donate yarn for our members to make items for the babies and children at the home.
- ♥ Buy a "Path of Hope" brick in honor or memory of a loved one.
- ♥ Buy an item from the online gift shop : <http://store.allchildrenfirst.org/>
- ♥ Purchase a chair or picnic table - made by the children at the home.
- ♥ Give an offering in church on every Fifth Sunday (the next Fifth Sunday is January 29, 2012)
- ♥ Pray - Please remember to lift up in your prayers the needs of the Children's Home



## Come Join us for a Bountiful and Bodacious Breakfast

**Saturday  
February 4**

**8:00 am - 10:30 am**

Same great menu: fruit cup, orange juice, eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, breakfast potatoes, muffins, baked beans, coffee & tea. Only \$6. Invite your friends and neighbors! We hope to see you there!

**ALL PROFITS GO TO THE DEBT REDUCTION FUND**

## Come Join Us for Connections Café Wednesdays, 5:45 PM , Beacon Life Center Menu for January

**January 4 - Salisbury Steak**

**January 11 - Oven Baked Chicken**

**January 18 - Meatloaf**

**January 25 - BBQ Pork Sandwich**

All dinners include Salad and/or Soup, Bread, assorted desserts and drinks, all for only \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 10.

## The Long Way Home

*This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls..."Jeremiah 6:16*

I joined this church in the spring of 1994. Charles Trembly and Norman Mead were our pastors. Through the years with them and Pastors Renee and Rich, I began to hear God's call to ministry. A whisper, a gentle persistent tug on my heart is the best way that I know to explain my call to ministry. Different from many of the dramatic stories in the Bible, God's call on my life has been a growing discernment.

My response to God's call has been a wonderful journey. With the support of this church and your encouragement, I traversed through our District Committee on Ordained Ministry, spent countless hours under the tutelage of wonderful mentors, devoted years of study in seminary, and met with the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. This has been a long and rewarding journey as I sought to live out my call to ministry.

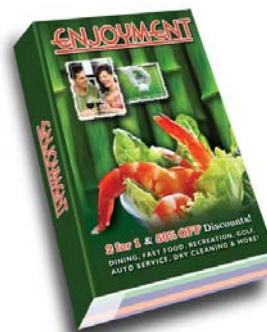
Serving in ministry alongside each of you and the annual pilgrimage in Disciple Bible Study have been a special blessing. Through the years, I have grown to love our church and all of you. As I stand at the crossroads, I have decided to continue serving our Lord at our church. Lorraine and I will not be moving – she will continue to sing in the Praise Band, we will both lead classes, and I will serve Port St. Lucie First United Methodist Church in whatever capacity they need me to serve. I will also serve on at least one mission team per year with Engineering Ministry International (as long as I am able). I will be traveling with a team to Sierra Leone in February, 2012.

I thank God for each of you and the joy that you bring to my life.

Blessings,

*Bill*

Bill Baldwin



## The 2012 Enjoyment Coupon Books

A few books are still available! Books are \$35. They are available in the church office and will save you a ton of money on dining out, dry cleaning, car washes and more! Proceeds benefit the UMW missions.

## *Our Thanks Goes Out To:*

- ♥ Carol Dust, Beverly Bostwick, Maureen Flood and Ruth & Paul Watkins for staffing the food pantry on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
- ♥ Our many church family volunteers who keep the landscape weed free & beautiful.
- ♥ Shirley Reeder, Anna & Fred Maddox for preparing the pews each week.
- ♥ John Stetser for helping with custodial tasks.
- ♥ Counters for your weekly assistance.
- ♥ All of our committee members, choirs & ushers who work hard all year long.
- ♥ Bill Bogley, Marlis Spear, Jan Poulin, Diane Gagliardi, Mary Lou Stetser and Shirley Miller who help in the office on a weekly basis.
- ♥ Bev Bostwick for managing the food pantry.
- ♥ Meredith Lewis & crew for cooking the Avenue D Feeding Ministry meal on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. Food transporters Judy Rhudy & Rita Etherington and servers: Bill Bogley, Judith & Joe Frederick, FUMC Youth & FP Central Honors Class. We always need more volunteers!



### **Gifts received in December toward BLC Mortgage**

#### **In memory of Edna Louise Huff by:**

Wally & Kathy Wynkoop  
Ted & Sue Allender

#### **In memory of Gus Benda by:**

Marilyn Benda



#### **Gifts received from Mary Rhudy:**

In honor of the Friday Bible Study and the leadership of Ed Rishko

In honor of the Rhudy family.

#### **Gift from Pat Kinahan:**

In honor of: Fred & Deanna Stevens; Karol Johnson; Susan & Tom Minch; Linda & Don Akerberg; Bev & Tom Daley.

# **My Story**

By JoAnne McLaughlin

I love learning more about my Lord and my Savior, Jesus Christ. How can I learn more about Jesus without some level of effort on my part? The answer is simple. I can't learn more about Jesus without carving out time every week to study the Bible.

I was raised learning responses from a catechism. Also, each Sunday, as a child and adolescent, I would hear a portion of a gospel and an epistle at mass. That was the extent of my contact with the Bible. When I first started going to a Protestant church, as an adult (in my early 30's), I began to learn more about Jesus and the people and events of the Old Testament. Little did I realize that the more I learned the more I would crave to learn. It was kind of like your first taste of chocolate or ice cream, once you got a taste of it, you wanted it more and more. Please give a Bible study and/or Sunday school a try; you will find fellowship, knowledge, grace, and blessings galore.

Every Bible study, Sunday school class, and small group study that I have participated in have created a stronger bond between my Savior and me. I have participated in Discipleship 1 and 2, and many classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, Pathfinders 11:00 Sunday School class, and my Advent study and Lent study group. All of these studies have made me a more complete person and helped me to develop a wonderful church family relationship. Finally, personally, I feel that learning about the Bible, and everything in it, is the least I can do, to thank Jesus for His sacrifice for me.

## *Thank You!*

♥ On behalf of Captain Bruce Williams and the Salvation Army of St. Lucie County, I recognize and thank those from FUMC for their time during this busy season. The following rang bells for two full days to assist the Army in serving those in need. Thank you :

Tom & Bev Daley, Ed Rishko, Audrey Tuthill, Paul & Dana Hronek, Laura Stransky, John Weed, Dale Meadows, Jimmy Mills, Mike Preuschl, Paul Watkins, Elisa Groendyke, Wayne & Margaret Williams.  
Carl Hensley, Chm. Advisory Board  
Salvation Army of St. Lucie County

♥ Many thanks for the prayers and also the Christmas gift. Best wishes to all and God bless, Mary & Ralph Arrindell.

♥ I would like to thank all the members of the youth group that visited our home and sang great Christmas music to my wife and myself. They were great and did a wonderful job. Thank you all and God bless each and everyone of you. Love you all, Dee and Harold Zimmerman



**IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?  
WHY AND HOW DO I PRAY?  
DOES GOD HEAL TODAY?**

**Monday Night Women's Bible Study  
Seed Part I**

**By Priscilla Shirer**

**Monday, January 23, 30, and February 6**

We will be presenting Priscilla Shirer's newest study: "Seed – Part 1" a 3 part series of short videos that include thought provoking, modern day parables with weekly Bible study.

Please **sign up with the Church office by January 3** (878-1155) or on your church bulletin. We will be ordering books on January 4. This will ensure you have your very own book waiting for you! They will be \$9.00, payable on the first day of class, in our little 'basket'. Mark your 2012 calendar and plan to join us! As always, we love new members and cherish our regulars.

Evev Simmons and GeriAnn Zaluzec, Facilitators

The Alpha course looks at these and other questions, providing a practical introduction to the Christian faith. Over **10 weeks**, the Alpha course helps guests explore the meaning of life, revealing that Christianity can be every bit as relevant to life today as it was 2000 years ago. **Participant books \$10.00.**

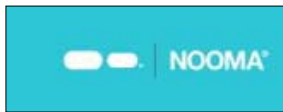
**January 11 - March 21**

**5:45 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Room 104, Beacon Life Center**

**Class size is limited to 20 participants.** Each class begins with dinner and then moves to a class for a brief talk and then time to ask questions, delve into different issues, find out what others think, and perhaps make some new friends along the way!

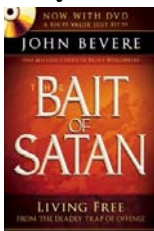
**New Sunday School Class**



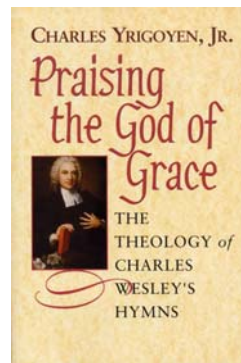
New YOUNG ADULT Sunday School class begins January 8, 11:00 am in room 104, of the Beacon Life Center. This class is geared to the mid-20s - early 40s marrieds and singles. Join Margaret Williams, who will facilitate NOOMA, a series of short films, by Rob Bell, that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus. It is an invitation to search, ask questions, and join the discussion. There is no cost for the class.

**Pathfinders Adult Sunday School**

**Are you ensnared by bitterness, seized by anger, or held captive by resentment because someone has offended you?**



Come join the Pathfinders Class on Sunday January 8, as Jim Kolts leads a 12 week study on "The Bait of Satan: Living Free From the Deadly Trap of Offense" by John Bevere. The class meets at 11:00 am, in Room 105 of the Beacon Life Center. There is no cost for the class. **Please register by December 30 to ensure we have a book for you.**



**Praising the God of Grace**

By Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.

Millions of Christians regularly sing his hymns without knowing much about him. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Christ the Lord, Is Risen Today," and "O For a

Thousand Tongues to Sing" are among the most popular. We are speaking of course, about Charles Wesley. This study celebrates the life, ministry, and hymnody of this hymn writer.

Wesley's hymns are a primer on the Bible and Christian beliefs. They help us sing the biblical story and our faith.

The study will be facilitated by Rad Orlandi, every **Wednesday from February 1 through March 28**. You can attend either morning sessions at 10:30 a.m. or evening sessions at 6:30 p.m. The cost for materials is \$2.00.



Pray for a wonderful new year. Through prayers and thanks we will realize that strength is found within since God will fill every need

when we trust and rely on Him. "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come to pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:11-13.

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things and at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work". 2 Corinthians 9:8

As we reflect on the beauty of Christmas, let us remain diligent for a better 2012 for our country and for the world.

Our Women's Prayer Group meets in the conference room of the Beacon Life Center on Thursday mornings at 8:15 am. Won't you join us?



Join Us for A  
Night You  
Won't Forget!



## Dinner, Dance & Karaoke

Friday, January 27, 2012

6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Enjoy a "Full Course Dinner"

(Salad, Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Dessert, coffee & tea)

Dinner music provided by: Sondra Burke  
(Pianist & Vocalist)

**Dance to Your Favorite Songs**  
with the DJ "Soundmates" Featuring Mari  
(dynamic vocalist who sings in 11 languages)

**Be a part of our first ever**

**"Karaoke Contest"**

(prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners)

Tickets are \$12 @ church office: 878-1155  
Or from a committee member

Reservations Required by January 23

**All profits will benefit the church  
mortgage reduction fund.**

### CHURCH HUMOR



"Welcome, O weary searcher for truth!  
Say, have you ever worked with kids?"



### January New Membership Class

Come explore membership at FUMC. Plan to join us for a series of three classes on Thursdays, January 19 & 26, and February 2 at 7:00 pm, Room 106 of the Beacon Life

Center. Pastor Wayne and Rad Orlandi will be your guides and share with you how membership at FUMC can bless you tremendously with new friends, new connections to the church and new vistas for your spiritual growth.

Please call the church office at 878-1155 or send an email to [secretary@pslfumc.com](mailto:secretary@pslfumc.com) to reserve a seat in this group of journey mates.

### Welcome our New Members

Joseph Baldwin  
6410 Oleander Ave.  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982  
772-812-8191

Darren & Jessica Prainito  
4690 SW Cacao St.  
PSL, FL 34953  
772-873-4272

Lavenia "Beanie" Curtis  
513 SE Brookside Ter.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983  
772-879-3888



## Our Friends Residing at Care Centers

### PSL Restorative Care Center

Katie Minch

### Harbor Place

Lillie Berry

Gertrude Giametta

Hattie Decell

### Life Care Center

Bernice McMullen

### Brighton Gardens

Bradley Jones

Doris Stull

Dorothy Daino

### Paradise Cove

Jeanne Smith

### Lake Forest Park

Norma Rabe



**Please contact the church office with the address of any service personnel currently on active duty. We have many requests from members of the congregation who would like to write to them.**

**Please pray for our Service Personnel** – Lt. Patrick Amersbach, Sgt. Dustin Armstrong, Larry Bach, William L. Baker, Lee Bauer; Sean K. Birmingham Sr., Alysyn & Cody Blume, SPC Audrey Ann Bray, Sgt. Joshua Bryant, Michael Thomas Byrnes Jr., Michael Calore Jr., Holly Chambers, Evan Craig, Chip Davis, Timothy Davis, David DeAtley, Lt. Daniel Doverspike, Jason Gaboury, Frank Genua, Brian Ginter, Capt. Chris Graham, Josh Guertin, Barbara Hager, Sgt. Christopher Henry, Albert Hickey, Mark Hopkins, SFC Brian “Tigger” Johnson, Commander Marie Kelly, Erick King, Michael Kuehn, Airman Michael B. Lawrence; Ens. Joe Lopiccio, John Lowry, Pvt. Jason Lyon, SPC Jeff Maddox, SPC David C. Maitland, Heather Maitland, Jason McErlain, Col. Kevin McNeely, Col. Kurt McNeely, Peter Mills, Daniel Mullen, David Orlandi, SSgt. Marla Poirier, Greg Poole, Jocelyn Priola, Dylan Randazzo, Major Christopher Rizzo, John Rosenhagen, Chuck Sachs, Mark Scales, Gunnery Sgt. Ronald A. Slone, Sgt. Mark Sorester, Dan St. Peters, David Stadelman, SFC Ken Steele, Oral Sutherland, Ens. Davidson Taveras, Anthony Thompson, Jorge L. Vazquez, Mike Vitale, Ens. Lt. Michael Warwick, Tim Waters, Reid Wilbraham, Aaron Wright.

**Please call the church office if someone you know should be added to the Service Personnel list or no longer on active duty.**

**Please Note:** If you are aware of an illness, hospitalization, or death in the family of one of our members, please notify the church office. This will help us better serve you. (We would rather receive several phone calls than none at all. So please do not assume that we already know.)



If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter “The Beacon” in your email box or receive our daily e-prayers and

daily devotions, just send an email to:

Secretary@pslfumc.com and we’ll add you to the list!

## Informational Tidbits:

**Food Pantry** –The last Sunday of every month is “Food Pantry Sunday.” Please bring your donations of non-perishable food and supplies. Our pantry serves many less fortunate families from our congregation and our community.

**Need A Ride to Church?** - We have a limited bus ministry to pick up people on Sunday morning for the 11:00 a.m. worship service and return them home afterwards. Please call the church office for more information.

**Albertson’s Community Partner Program** - Every time you shop at the store, just hand them your card before the order is tendered. The church will receive a contribution from the store each quarter. If you are interested in participating, please stop by the church office to pick up a card or call us and we’ll mail one to you!

**Sherwin Williams Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program** Our church is currently enrolled in this program offering special savings to you and CASH BACK to the church. Every time you shop at the Sherwin-Williams store and use the Neighbor-to-Neighbor card you will save 20% on all regular priced merchandise and 5% on all sale priced merchandise! In addition, a CASH BACK BONUS will be mailed to the church with no strings attached. You can pick up your card from the church office.

**WHY Ministry** – We Help You! – Offers food to those going through times of unusual stress or life crisis. Remember, if you have been blessed by God, you should be a blessing to others! And the testimony of those already participating is that “we get back so much more than we give.”

**Paper Drive** – After reading your daily newspaper, please remember that we have a large recycling bin for them. You can now bring old magazines, phone books and old mail too! Please help the YOUTH and ecology!

**Check Out our website: [pslfumc.com](http://pslfumc.com)**

**Newsletter Deadline: January 15**

### Record Of Our Faithful Attendance

Attendance	<u>11/27</u>	<u>12/4</u>	<u>12/11</u>	<u>12/18</u>
8:00am	196	182	210	175
OASIS	237	236	233	246
11:00am	189	184	221	231
S School	166	157	161	137

### Record Of Our Financial Faithfulness as of 12/18

<u>Financial Update</u>	<u>Needed</u>	<u>Received</u>
Per Week:	\$12,787.60	\$12,010.24
Year to date:	\$652,167.50	\$632,828.06
Debt Reduction Monthly	\$17,399.54	\$11,399.54

## Devotions

**What happens when I confess my sins?**

*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you. 1 Corinthians 3:16*

When you come in from playing outside and are dirty what do you do? You take a bath. The "real you" inside gets dirty when you sin. It needs to be cleaned. Confessing your sins to God is like taking a spiritual bath for the "real you."

Do you remember what you have been learning about the Holy Spirit? When you receive Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside you. Your body is the temple where He lives. He is your helper. And when you give in to sin, He convicts you. God promises to forgive you if you confess your sins to Him. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify [cleanse] us from all unrighteous-ness [sin]" (1 John 1:9). Confessing your sins to God is like taking a spiritual bath.

When you confess your sins, your relationship with God is made right again. Your peace and joy returns. God hears and answers your prayers. You are once again filled by Him. He is in control.

Taking a bath and being clean feels great, but taking a spiritual bath and being forgiven feels even better!

(Wonderzone Daily Devotions)

**Keep Jesus first in your lives each day in the upcoming year. May 2012 be filled with many blessings for you and your family!**

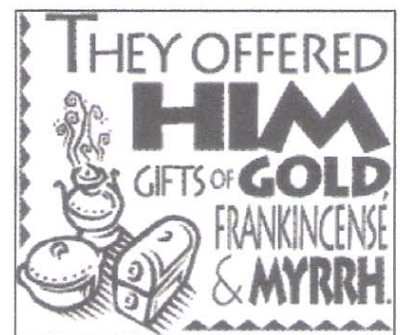


**There will be no Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> and there will be one Worship service on those days at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary**

### The Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus

The wise men, traveling from the East, came to give worship and give

royal gifts. They brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. The bible doesn't actually say that there were three wise men, there could have been more. But it does state that there were three gifts. This is one of the reasons that we give gifts at Christmas, but more importantly we give gifts because Jesus gave of Himself so freely. He is the greatest gift of all!



## Extreme Kids Zone Dates

January 4<sup>th</sup> - Classes resume  
Bring a friend to join in the fun!

### What makes Christianity different from other religions?

Religion is something a person does. Christianity is a person-- Jesus Christ. What is the difference? Jesus is the difference. Christianity is different from all other religions because we have a Savior who came down from Heaven to die for our sins. No other religion has a Savior who died for them and rose from the dead.

Christianity is God reaching down to us. Christians have their sins forgiven by the wonderful grace of God. It is not by works of any kind (Eph. 2:8-9).

In many hearts there are two questions. "How can I get to Heaven?" one of the disciples asked Jesus (John 14:5). Jesus answered him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Another question is "How can I know God?" A disciple asked Jesus to show God to him (John 14:8). Jesus answered, "He that has seen me has seen the Father...." (John 14:9b) for Jesus and the Father are one (John 10:30).

Jesus is the answer to both questions. Jesus is the way to Heaven and to know Jesus is to know God.

No other religion has a Savior like Jesus. He makes all the difference between religion and Christianity. Make sure you know Jesus as your Savior! Acts 16:31 says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved"



What do snowmen eat for breakfast? (snowflakes)

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? (It's Christmas, Eve.)

# Parents

What amazing gift did you receive for Christmas? Did you recognize the most precious gift of all?



### Because...

*When I laugh with a child at something silly,  
when I comfort a child and the crying stops,  
when we marvel together at something amazing,  
or when a child feels loved by me ...*

*If I look in that child's eyes,  
if the child looks back at me,  
if I look at just the right angle,  
and if I really let myself...*

*I can see the eyes of Christ,  
only for a split second,  
but there they are.*

*It's hard for me to fully understand how,  
and even tougher to explain why,  
but there they are.*

*And every time this happens,  
this brief glimpse of Jesus in a child's eyes,  
I know I'm forever changed.*

*Because Jesus is looking back at me.*

Take time this week to look deeply into the eyes of your child or a child that you work with or lead. You will see why what you do and say matters. You will know that your preparation and prayers are worth every moment. Make sure you look real close. These kids are our future. They are counting on you! "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." (2 Chronicles 16:9)