

KOKOMO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

December 2019 Monthly Newsletter

Something To Hope For This Christmas

Gearing myself up mentally for the Christmas season and all its trappings, I am reminded of a couple of past Christmas season blessings that challenge me to keep the emphasis where it needs to be at Christmas: blessing and serving others.

An unexpected house guest over Christmas!

One December, we received a phone call from a man who had just been released from jail. I had been going there to visit someone from Kokomo, but ended up being asked to provide a service for any of the men there who wanted it! This man showed particular interest and asked me to do one-on-one visitation with him too. He had just been released from jail when he called, and the weather was well below freezing. There was no homeless shelter in that small rural town. A couple of the guys from church went and got him and brought him back to our house to stay. He was very sweet and respectful, held Lucas (who was a toddler at the time), and helped with the dishes. When the time came for us to go to Michigan for Christmas, we couldn't leave him in our house, so we ended up taking him with us! He stayed in Pastor Michael Hubbards home in Muskegon, and Michael got him some nice clothes and brought him to church, and ran around with him for several days over Christmas. After our stay up there, he came back to Kokomo with us. There is a lot more to this story than what I can share here, and it is very remarkable. Ask me about it in person some time - it will blow your mind! Suffice to say that after all our adventures with this man, it became apparent that his confession of Christ was not real, and I have never seen him since. One thing I do know is that he will never forget the love he was shown and our prayers for him are not in vain. I thank God for the Christmas blessing He sent us that year of being able to serve. It was not boring!!!!!!

Just a ride?

Another December, I ended up giving an older lady a ride home. I cannot recall if I met her at the Mission, or if she was just walking down the street in the cold with some heavy bags. During the ride to her house, I found out that she and her husband were both on Social Security and that at least one of her children were in jail, which caused her to have her grandkids part-time. She mentioned some needs that they had for food and some kind of presents for her grandkids. I wished her a Merry Christmas and went on my way. I don't know about you, but for me, the bible has some very challenging instructions. One of them goes like this: **“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?(Jas 2:14-16 ESV)”** As I drove away, I don't know if it was conviction or condemnation that plagued my mind, but I figured I'd better try to help her some more. So I went and got Jenn and the kids and we pick up a few things for them. When we went back later that night to drop the stuff off, the grandkids were very excited about their presents. It was a real reality check for me.

I hesitate to share these stories, but my main point in doing so was to say that these experiences that God opened the door for have been a blessing in past Christmas seasons. I hope that God will open such a door this year, and give me the grace to get my mind off of my own concerns and onto the concerns of others and that I would not miss opportunities to bless needy people. Every day (and at Christmas) there are adults and children all around us who do not have some of the blessings that we struggle not to take for granted. If we ask Him, maybe God will bless us this Christmas by leading us to some of them.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Church 10 & 6:00	2	3	4 Sarah Martin	5 Nicky Farmer Laura Kidwell Church 7pm	6	7
8 Church 10 Homegroups 5pm	9	10 Men's Jail Service 7:15pm	11	12 Church 7pm	13 Hang Out 6:30pm	14
15 Church 10 KRM 6:30pm	16	17	18 Debbie Richardson	19 Church 7pm Parents Group 7:15	20	21
22 Church 10 & Christmas Program 6:00	23 Christmas Caroling 6pm	24	25	26 Church 7pm	27	28
29 Church 10 Northwoods 5:30pm	30					