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He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” - Mark 16:15

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What is Christmas All About?



Is there anyone who knows what Christmas is about?

Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is about.

Linus
Christmas Speech

The story begins in a place called Nazareth, in a quiet, sleepy town where most people were farmers and shepherds. In this town was a young Jewish woman Mary. She was very obedient, a God-fearing woman who helped her parents and did her chores. She was kind and helpful to everyone, all the people liked her very much, and soon she was going to be married to Joseph, who was a good, honest, hardworking man.

One day God sent an angel to visit Mary and he said, “Mary, do not be afraid, for God has sent me to you. My name is Gabriel. Because of your kind heart and pure soul, you are of great value to the Lord. You are fortunate. Above everyone else, He has chosen you for a very special task. I have come

to tell you that soon you will have a son. He will be a great king and will be loved by everyone.”

Continued on Page 8



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Christmas - An Amazing Time of the Year

It is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ. One of the ways we do that is by giving and receiving gifts, and as we do, it reminds us that Jesus is the greatest gift of all. Pure giving is one of the most beautiful things that we do, and I always encourage people to make every day Christmas as far as giving is concerned. Let's live in the spirit of Christmas all year round!

If you just open up your eyes and look around, you can see that it's true. There is nothing that lights a person up like Jesus. He puts so much joy in your soul! Without Jesus, we would have no love or compassion to share with others. But because

He lives in us, we can shine the light of His love throughout the entire world.

That is the purpose God has for us. In other words, he has chosen us to shine his light in the world. It's very encouraging to know God doesn't expect us to be perfect before his love and light can shine through our lives. You could say that you and I are like cracked pots.

We will always have weaknesses and imperfections, but we never have to hide them from God. The light of God actually intensifies in us as we allow him to work in us. There are so many ways

to shine his light. It can be as simple as wearing a smile. As you go about your daily life, especially during this special season of celebration, I encourage you to let aside a portion of your time, energy, talents, and resources to share that light and serve others.

After all, this is what Christmas is really all about. Just as Jesus came to love and serve all of us by giving the greatest gift, his very life, we can give of ourselves because His life and light is in us. He is Emmanuel, God with us!

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Merry Christmas!

from Dunndead Publications



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Dr. Douglas Wingate, Ph.D.
Life Christian University

Christmas time is finally upon us. It is definitely my favorite time of the year, and I am sure many of us feel the same way. As a believer, I especially love the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As time goes on, I think that I appreciate the backstories about this event which is the central theme of our lives and even of time itself. The unfolding of the events from the very beginning reveals a special gift that is available to all of us as a hidden Christmas gift if we will simply receive it. That is the gift of faith.

When the young virgin Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel, she was troubled by this miraculous experience, mostly because of Gabriel's salutation. "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women!" Luke 1:28. He continued, "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:30-33.

Mary was engaged to be wed to Joseph. In the Jewish custom, this was the same as being married, but they had not yet consummated the marriage by joining together physically. That would happen only after the official wedding feast.

Mary told this to the angel and he answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you. Therefore, also that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. For with God, nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:35-37.

Have Some Faith for Christmas

"Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.'" Luke 1:38. This faith answer that Mary gave to the angel Gabriel is fascinating. She was telling him that she was willing for everything that he had spoken to come to pass in her life. But what caused her to have such faith in the angel's words?

The answer is in his statement, "For with God, nothing will be impossible." As a minister and as a student of the God's word, I have learned to use a few Greek word study tools. As a graduate of Rhema Bible Training College, I was quite familiar with the word "rhema", which means, "spoken word", with the idea of it being a word spoken to you personally.

One day I was looking through my word study concordance and observing the various ways that the KJV translators had translated this word. I looked down the list of scriptures in order and noticed that most of the time they chose the word, "word", and many times the word, "saying" was chosen. But all of a sudden I noticed it was translated as "nothing". It was from this passage in Luke's gospel, 1:37. Which means literally, "No word of God will be impossible." The word "rhema" had the Greek prefix which negated the word, now rendering it as "no word" but translated by the translators as "nothing".

You see the gift to all of us here is just like the faith promise offered to Mary. If God says or promises something to us in His word, the Bible, that word that He has spoken is possible to be received in your life. Most Christians will agree that this is true of the promise from Romans 10:13. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

What if we believed His word penned by the Apostle Paul from I Corinthians 9:8? "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

Or I Corinthians 8:9, which says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty

might become rich." Jesus was certainly rich in Heaven before He chose to take on human flesh to become our Savior. But even while on Earth, He led a traveling mega-ministry around, providing for all of His disciples—70 of them, not just the 12, and obviously their families that they left in order to follow Jesus. There was so much provision in the money pouch that Judas was constantly stealing from it and no one noticed it but Jesus.

Jesus became poor while hanging on the cross for me and for you. That was the place that he bore our sins, our poverty, and our sickness. The Apostle Peter penned God's word's to us when he was referencing Isaiah 53:5, saying, "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we having died to sins, might live by righteousness, by whose stripes you were healed."

This is the gift that God wants us to receive this Christmas. His Word is His bond. Take Him at His Word.

Jesus taught His disciples a faith lesson after Peter noticed that a fig tree that Jesus had cursed withered from the roots. Jesus immediately said in Mark 11:22, "Have faith in God." When we look at the literal translation it says, "Have God's faith." You see, we don't have faith of our own until we believe God's Word, and then His faith comes into our heart. What Jesus was telling His disciples was that were being offered the gift of God's faith to use as their own. He is saying the same thing to us today.

I had the opportunity to travel to Nazareth in Israel back in 1977. My friends and I were shopping through the markets that lined the streets when I got separated from them and was lost for about an hour.

I saw a large church and walked into it to see if I could get some help. I noticed a Franciscan priest that seemed to be there to answer

people's questions. I told him that I was lost, and asked him what church this was. He answered, "This is the Church of the Annunciation."

Suddenly it hit me, of course—Nazareth. My mind immediately ran to this Christmas story and Gabriel coming to speak to Mary. I asked, "Is this where Mary lived?" He said, "The grotto below is believed to be Mary's home."

So I then said to the priest, "If this is where Gabriel announced to Mary that she was going to become the mother of the Son of God, then this must be the same place that the Holy Spirit came upon her and she conceived the Lord Jesus." I said, "This must be the place that God touched the earth to bring salvation to all the people of the world."

Immediately the priest began to weep. Then I began to weep, and we just both stood there weeping and worshiping God for His goodness, His grace, and His mercy, and blessing us to allow us to be standing in such a holy place.

Eventually my friends showed up at the Church of the Annunciation, and I was able to come back home to the USA, but it would have been okay if I had to stay there till Jesus came back for me.

Receive the gift of God's faith this Christmas. Believe that all of His promises, His Words, are for you and your loved ones, so that you might receive the abundant life that Jesus died to give you.

Join us every Thursday night at 7:00pm for Healing Services at Life Christian University, 410 E. Chapman Rd. Lutz, FL. LCU classes are offered on Monday nights from 7:00 to 10:00pm. Call at 813-909-9720 or log on at www.lcus.edu.

Doug Wingate
President and Founder of Life Christian University



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Samantha Taylor
Samantha Taylor Fitness

She Admits "I can't do this on my own."

be your greatest step towards victory because you are fed up.

Being fed up with your current situation can be a good place to be because that is when you are the most likely to do something about it.

Years ago, I heard someone say, "You will never change what you tolerate." That is SO true because if you tolerate it or put up with it, then it will stay the same.

So you have to ask yourself, "Am I fed up enough with the results I have had on my own, to do something about this?" If so, get excited because that is a good place to be!

It actually takes strength to admit you can't do it on your own, not weakness. It takes realizing you are sick of wasting time and sick of not seeing the results. It's okay to get help. It's actually a good thing because you can speed up your results.

I know everyone is busy in December but to encourage you to take action this month instead of waiting until January, we are going to give you a HUGE bonus on our program if you get started in December, so let's talk.

If you are ready to stop being frustrated and start getting results, then I would like to give you a free Body Transformation Analysis in any of our 5 locations for women.

We will show you some tips on nutrition and map out a plan for we can achieve your goals together. Let's get started on your New Year's goals now before 2019 gets here.

Visit www.SamanthaTaylorFitness.com or call 813-377-3739.

If you would like some delicious healthy cookie recipes for this season, check these out, they are amazing!

<http://www.samanthataylorfitness.com/cookie recipes>

Merry Christmas! Enjoy celebrating this amazing time of year celebrating Christ!

TOGETHER THEY LOST 284 LBS. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ACCOMPLISH THIS YEAR?



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LOST 106 LBS.



LOST 51 LBS.



LOST 67 LBS.

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Stop in to see Santa on Saturday, December 15 from 11:30am to 3pm.

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A Day in Bethlehem

Come join us as we go back 2000 years to Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. Be counted at the census booth, walk through the marketplace, make and taste baked goods, grind spices, watch yarn being spun into wool, observe toys being made, and make your way to the stable and manger where Mary and Joseph have welcomed the Savior of the world.

Saturday December 8th 9am-1pm at Harvester UMC

Parents can drop kids off and get some Christmas shopping done!
Children are asked to bring a canned good.

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Please visit our website to register at harvesterumc.com

Harvester

United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

We will be having two
Christmas Eve Candlelight services,
One at 5:30pm and the second at 7:00pm.

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Please call (813) 948-2311 or visit our website
harvesterumc.com



Tampa Tour De Clay

Tampa Tour De Clay, a free, self-guided tour, exhibition, and sale, will take place Dec. 8th from 9am – 5pm, and Dec. 9th from 11am – 4pm at five local pottery studios: Schiemann Studio, St. Petersburg, Pottery Boys Studio, Palm Harbor, Hidden Lake Pottery, Odessa, Wellman & Welsch Pottery, Lutz, and San Antonio Pottery, San Antonio, FL.

San Antonio Pottery will extend its hours to 8pm on Saturday with live music provided by popular local bands, The Chipco Creek String Band & Those Unscrupulous SunSpots. To view a tour map and a list of artists, visit www.TampaTourDeClay.com. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, or call Jack Boyle at 352-588-4228.

“She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
— Matthew 1:21



Heart 2 Heart Truth Ministries



Chonta Haynes is more than a typical author. She uses biblical principles to show others how to have an abundant life employing God's Word. Using her experiences from teaching biblical finance for over 14 years and the truth of the Word, she's written a new book, *Not Just Paper*, principles for financial success.

Not Just Paper is biblically-based with a heavy use of scriptural and original language references. The value of the book is financial soundness, discipleship, and a journey to the heart of God.

Other students often buy multiple copies to give to family and friends after reading *Not Just Paper*. The university's president has given an endorsement for this book and the pastor uses the paired workbook (*Financial Wisdom for Financial Freedom*) with his premarital counselees.

This book is available for purchase on Amazon or her website, ChontaHaynes.com, or H2HTruth.org and is also available as a package with the workbook mentioned. Dr. Haynes lectures at Grace & Truth Christian University every Monday night from 7pm to 10pm and teaches the Biblical Finances course annually in October. Heart 2 Heart Truth Ministries was created to offer transformative Biblically-based truths. As president, Dr. Haynes has a heart for all to reach their maximum God-given potential. Sharing these books and insights with others provides salt and light.

Women-N- Charge Gives Back

Thanks to a Supportive Community

Women-n-Charge, a local professional women's group, recently donated \$1000 to be used in aid to the Florida Panhandle victims of Hurricane Michael. The funds were made available as a result of a very successful annual Tea and Fundraiser Dinner Theater supported by local businesses, sponsors, and the community at large. In order to maximize the donation, funds were sent earmarked to *The Salvation Army. To learn more about Women-n-Charge, visit the website at www.women-charge.com or on Facebook.

The Salvation Army uses 100 percent of all disaster donations in support of disaster relief. The Salvation Army NEVER places an administrative fee on disaster donations.

Women-N- Charge New Members



New Members Inducted in November 2018 (from left to right): Glory Huerta of SenGence International, Kim Jansen of OH! Optimal Health, Wendy Cull of Hair Soul and Body, Lisa Bielinski Wheeler of FBC Mortgage, LLC, and Membership Chair Mary Adele Cluck of Mary Me Mary. Welcome new members!

Women-n-Charge

Join the vibrant ladies of Women-n-Charge on Friday, December 7th from 11:15am-1:15pm at Plantation Palms Golf Club (23253 Plantation Palms Blvd., Land O' Lakes, FL 34639).

The meeting includes lunch, a presentation, and time to network. We share our talents, build relationships, and share our resources with other women in business.

Please note the change in meeting costs and RSVP dates! The cost is \$15 for members and \$18 for guests who RSVP by Mon-

day prior to the meeting. Tuesday and after, the cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for guests. Please register at <http://www.women-n-charge.com/meetings>. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Judy at 813-600-9848 or info@women-n-charge.com.

Our December meeting will also be our Annual Holiday Party. We will have a gift exchange (suggested \$10 limit) - everyone may bring a wrapped or bagged item for a fun and entertaining exchange. A special menu is planned as well!

Waiting

Keith Chandler, Journey Christian Church

We all know waiting is difficult. Maybe it's when you've seen a gift that's wrapped under the Christmas tree, but it's not time and you're not allowed to open it up yet so you're waiting. Maybe it's excitedly waiting to be given the ring, but your boyfriend seems much more consumed with fantasy football and so you continue to wait. Or maybe it's when you have your hope for that closest relationship to be reconciled, but you still continue to struggle. Or it's when you're praying for God to change things at your work situation. You believe He will and you know that He can, He just hasn't done it yet. It's when you have in your mind a picture of "peace on Earth, goodwill toward men," but then you see a racist outburst and you realize we're not there yet. We are waiting. We're caught in between Heaven and Earth. We have the promise of one but we live in the pain of the other. In between can be a really tough place to live, but there are some truths we can learn from the very first Christmas that can help us get through.

1. Jesus was born a king. In the New Testament, the wise men first called Him king when Jesus was an infant. In Matthew 2:2 they asked the question, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and we have come to worship him." Today we're now waiting for this king to return. He will come again to put an exclamation point on history and eternity will begin. (Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-12) God was willing to go to whatever lengths necessary in order to be sure that He came for us. He knew that there were people—throughout the centuries—who needed to know the love of God, and if a stable was to be His entry point then sign Him up! Because God would rather live in poverty than have you live without Him. God would rather live apart from Heaven

than have you die apart from Him. Waiting becomes a lot easier when you can trust and know that there's an Almighty King who loves you. When Luke records what the angels said in that setting to those first century shepherds, it sounded like they were announcing the birth of a king, because that's exactly what they were doing. Notice this announcement was made by a group of angelic beings who announced that this baby was going to change everything for everyone! So we need to know that the God who loves us is the true king of the world and nothing happens that's not under His watch. Your pain does not go unnoticed. (Your waiting is not in vain)

2. Jesus died a king. That might seem strange to talk about Christ's death at Christmas. The only reason we can talk about Christ's death is because He didn't stay dead. Usually when you think of a king dying it means defeat. (Not in this case) He was sacrificial. What this king did was different and distinctive and totally unexpected and people were caught off guard. The Christmas story is all about getting something we desperately need but we didn't deserve. Two thousand years ago, many people feared the wrath and justice of God. But they were about to receive an unexpected, undeserved gift of love and humility. While God sees all and while God sees everything we do, I want you to know something today: He's pulling for you. He is in your corner. He knows people don't need to be told they're going to hell. They need to be shown how to get to heaven, and that's the whole reason Jesus came. One of my favorite Christmas cards is the one that says, "If man's greatest need would've been for information, then God would've sent an educator. If man's greatest need would have been for pleasure, then He would've sent an entertainer. If man's greatest need was for money, then God would have sent a financial consultant. But God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that man's greatest need was the forgive-

ness of sin and so He sent a Savior." And that has made all of the difference for each one who has swallowed their pride and put their trust in Jesus. Anyone who walks out of His own grave is whoever He says that He is—which leads us to the last detail of this king.

3. Jesus is coming back a king. There is an inscription over the dome of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. and it's an inscription that puts this life in perspective. It reads: "One God, one law, one element, and one far-off divine event toward which all of creation moves." We're not just living in an endless timeline that goes on forever. There is meaning to the madness. There is a purpose for why the King of Kings

came to Earth and why He is coming again. People ask, "What's the world coming to?" I'll tell you what the world is coming to. The world is coming to a day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Please join us on Sunday, December 23rd at 10am for our Christmas Eve-eve service followed by a breakfast brunch. Until next month, Keith

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Help a child at Christmas

As the cooler weather finally comes rolling through, we begin to prepare for Christmas. 'Tis the season for apple cider, pumpkin spice, hot chocolate, and egg nog! There are Christmas movies, Christmas trees, and decorations everywhere you look! For many, it brings with it wonderful feelings of family, home, and togetherness. Or it turns our hearts toward those who may not have family or are unable to be with their family – like the children in our care at Hope Children's Home.

For 50 years, children at Hope have been celebrating Christmas with a new family – the Hope family. Each year brings new wish lists full of both wants and needs. As you gather this year with family and friends, won't you think about the children at Hope? You can help to make a child's Christmas special by giving to Hope Children's Home! We have made it easy by breaking down 4 ways you can help our children for

Christmas. You'll find all of these options at **HopeChildrensHome.org/Christmas**. There are wish lists, gift card needs, and an opportunity to give a financial gift. This Christmas, when we have enjoyed so many blessings, why not be a blessing to someone a little less fortunate and help us as we rescue the next generation!

See how you can help at HopeChildrensHome.org/Christmas



It's the Season for Giving: Holiday Donation Resource List

By Samantha Yates, Staff Writer

Support Food for the Poor, who operates and supports feeding programs that feed hundreds of thousands of people every day.

- FoodforthePoor.org (800) 427-9104

Support Joyce Meyers Ministries whose mission is to share Christ and love people in every way they can through the use of partner support.

- Become a partner: Joycemeyer.org/partnership

Support One City Ministries, who is celebrating ten years of life changing work in Uganda by decreasing deaths and illnesses as well as increasing income and profit skills.

- Onecityministries.org/donate

Support The American Red Cross whose mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering during emergencies with the help of volunteers and donors.

- Redcross.org/donate (813) 868-7642

Support The Well, a women's bible study and training ministry with a two-fold mission to encourage maturity in the Christian faith and help women develop in ministry and leadership through Bible study, prayer and accountability.

- Thewellbiblestudy.org/support

Support Trinity Outreach of Tampa Bay, who provides practical assistance to those in need through transition, education and housing by being the practical hands and feet of the universal and unified church of Christ.

- Trinityoutreachtampabay.org/donate

Support One More Child. Hope Street is transforming lives in inner city Tampa through Christ-centered services and development.

- OneMoreChild.org/HopeStreet (813) 575-0711

“Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’”
— Matthew 1:19-20

Biblical Stewardship



James H. Willis, III
Founder and President
The Willis Agency, Inc

813-948-9109
Jim@TheWillisAgency.com
www.TheWillisAgency.com
1 Peter 5:7

What is Biblical Stewardship? How does it have any impact on my life and my money? I'll share with you my first personal experience with Biblical Stewardship. It was in the mid 90's and I had financial frustration in every aspect of my life. It was absolutely horrible!! Once I got a grasp on this concept (ha, perhaps it got a grasp on me?!?), I was almost immediately set free. I felt an overwhelming burden lifted and a clear financial future by obeying God's stewardship principles. May I also note: You don't need to be a Christian to be successful applying these principles. I was liberated and focused on financial freedom. God's way and love have helped 100% of the families we work with.

Here are some of the major points of Biblical Stewardship:

1) Stewardship is the only area of the Christian life that cannot be faked. The way we spend our money is a true measure of our priorities.

2) Every spending decision is a spiritual decision. Ask, "Is this really what God wants me to do?"

3) Believing—this is the key to financial freedom. Often it is not rational or the American Dream.

There are 4 Transcendent Planning Principles of Financial Success:

1) You must spend less than you make
2) Avoid the use of debt as much as possible
3) Build up liquidity, a "slush fund" of 3-6 months of expenses
4) Set long-term goals and plan ahead!

These are some of the primary points of Financial Stewardship. Remembering that God really owns it all and provides for it all is at the forefront. And yet He leaves it to us to be good stewards of great blessings. My purpose is to be your Steward Assistant.

Caring for you and yours,
Jim

GriefShare

Keystone Community Church is presenting GriefShare starting Thursday, Jan 3, 2019 from 7 to 9pm at 21010 State Road 54. Built around a 13-week video curriculum, GriefShare support groups meet weekly to help each one face the challenges of grief and move forward from mourning to restoring their hope and rebuilding their lives. When you love someone and they die, you feel isolated. At GriefShare, you will find people who understand because grief is a journey and they are part of the same journey. Fee \$15 for workbook. For questions, feel free to call 813-469-0903.

Human Trafficking is Big Business

By Anne Childers

Human Trafficking may well be the biggest industry you have never heard of. Forced labor and Human Trafficking is a \$150B industry globally with 40.3 victims worldwide, according to figures supplied by the International Labor Organization/Geneva, September 2017. Victims of human trafficking include children, women and men who are subjected to sexual exploitation, marriage or forced labor through force, fraud or coercion.

The U.S. Department of Justice human trafficking task force reports 83% of sex trafficking victims identified in the United States are U.S. citizens with an average age of 12-14. Florida continues to rank third in the nation in the number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Those calls signal an increased local awareness largely because of state level action.

Former Attorney General Pam Bondi worked with Florida's legislative leaders to create a 15-member Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. The Council, chaired by Bondi was created and signed into law in 2014. It is comprised of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, legislators, and experts in the fields of health, education and social services.

You can be part of the solution for victims of modern-day slavery by raising your own awareness, and alerting authorities to suspicious activities.

Signs of human trafficking can include but are not limited to:

- Poor mental health or abnormal behavior
- Poor physical health
- Lack of control
- Few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

If you think you have come into contact with a victim of human trafficking, do not become involved personally, but do call one of the professional services trained to recognize and rescue victims.

Report your suspicions anonymously to local law enforcement, the National Human Trafficking Hotline-1-888-373-7888, The U.S. Department of Justice Hotline 1-888428-7581, the Florida Abuse Hotline 1-800-96-ABUSE (22873), or 911.

Pasco FREE, (pascoFREE@gmail.com) is accepting members- email for details, and anyone wishing to share information with this publication may send an email to edit101@ddpnews.com.

For additional information watch the WEDU video at <http://www.wedu.org/human-trafficking>, or contact, MyFloridaLegal.com.

Ask yourself how your organizations or place of worship can make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

"The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking will coordinate and enhance efforts to further combat human trafficking and to support victims of this horrific crime."

- Attorney General Pam Bondi



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A BLESSED
HOLIDAY SEASON

Flip Side Realty by Design, owned and operated by broker Marla Adams, is not only Veteran owned but also Christian owned. We all wish everyone a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous holiday for you and your families near and far.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

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Pediatric Place of Tampa Now Offering Urgent Care Hours

By Karen McBride

Dr. Michele Johnson-Towson, Pediatric Place of Tampa, is a board-certified pediatrician with 27 years of experience in caring for children ages newborn to 21 years old. She wants to remind parents the 2018-2019 school year starts early in Hillsborough County.

Students will head back to school August 10, 2018. Be sure to call Pediatric Place of Tampa now to schedule school and sports physicals. Once school starts, the cold and flu season is not far behind since kids share germs right along with academics and sports. The doctor is also encouraging patients to schedule for flu shots starting in September. The flu shot which contains coverage against the influenza A&B strains is available in proper doses for ages 6 months and up.

It is important for all shots to be up to date, and hearing and vision tested so students are totally ready for a new year of learning and healthy playing.


Same-week appointments are available for school physicals at Pediatric Place of Tampa, and

the practice accepts all insurances as well as self-pay patients. New patients are always welcome!

Dr. Johnson-Towson and her staff are dedicated to keeping patients both healthy and educated on changes in children's health care. Pediatric Place of Tampa offers Urgent Care hours to accommodate sick children after work, school, and/or daycare. Urgent Care hours are available Monday – Friday, and Saturdays 8:00am until noon.

Pediatric Place of Tampa is conveniently located at 1338 W. Fletcher Avenue in Tampa. The cheerful, kid-friendly office is on the bus line too. Call today at 813-264-2288 and schedule for school physicals, checkups, and flu shots.





Just Palms

Chris Tillman

As a longtime advertiser in Dunndead Publications, I just wanted to say thanks for your years of service. I've met so many great readers over the years, many who use our services year after year. Advertising in your publications is probably the sole reason my Palm Trimming business has succeeded over the years. It's the only place I gladly pay for advertising year after year. Thanks Kay for all the great service over the years, and I'm looking forward to many more years of advertising with you!



Christ our **SAVIOR**
is born

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay Unveils New Brand Positioning



"The need in Tampa Bay for young people to have a role model is more urgent than ever," said Stephen Koch, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. "To attract more volunteers of all generations, we needed a modernization of our brand to make an impact in the community and meet the need of the essential work of matching youth with mentors."

Months of research, including focus groups with potential Bigs as well as current Bigs, Littles, donors, staff, and leadership, showed the former brand was not effectively connecting with younger, prospective mentors or conveying the urgent mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The organization is now intentionally pivoting from messages of the importance of mentoring, to messages of the urgent need for the adults in the community to step up to defend the potential of every child. The mission will remain the same, as will the core model of building bridges in communities by connecting one adult with one child and supporting that match at every stage. But the organization will focus on a child's potential, and our role as adults in helping children achieve their best possible futures.

"In our community, we know that youth

are facing numerous challenges. Our organization's new brand is designed to help us ensure we can serve more children in Tampa Bay by recruiting more volunteers," said Koch.

Learn more about the new brand positioning, the logo or messaging, or how to get involved at bbbs.org/bigpotential.

Share the new look and follow updates on the Big Brothers Big Sister of Tampa Bay Facebook page as well as on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Join the conversation using the hashtags #DefendingPotential and #BBBSTB.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay is part of the nation's largest donor and volunteer-supported mentoring network and holds itself accountable for children in its program to achieve measurable outcomes, such as educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence and better relationships. Partnering with parents/guardians, schools, corporations and others in the community, Big Brothers Big Sisters carefully pairs youth, or "Littles," with screened volunteer mentors, or "Bigs," and monitors these mentoring matches throughout their time in the program. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides children facing adversity – often of a single or low-income household or families where a parent is incarcerated or serving in the military – with strong and enduring, professionally-supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

In 2017, nearly 3,000 children were paired with mentors in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties. The agency was awarded the BBBS National Gold Standard Award this past summer. For more information, please visit www.bbbsstampabay.org.

The Norman Jewish Library and Education Center

Books needed Jewish and non-Jewish. Please call Rabbi Uriel Rivkin for delivery (Temple Terrace, Florida) or pick-up at 813-832-3018 or email drobertnorman@gmail.com.




CHRISTMAS
WITHOUT CHRIST
IS JUST A MESS



COMMUNITY PET NEWS

Mark Twilla DVM
Sunshine Animal Hospital



Human Medications and Your Pet

Should you give your pet human over the counter medications when they are sick or hurt? The general answer is NO.

Some human over the counter medications such as Tylenol (acetaminophen) and Advil (ibuprofen) are **EXTREMELY TOXIC** to dogs and cats and should never be given.

Other human OTC medications such as aspirin, famotidine, benadryl or immodium are sometimes used in our pets but only on the direct orders of a veterinarian. Dosages are weight based and breed specific. The veterinarian may choose to prescribe according to the symptoms but many factors have to be considered.

Dogs and cats are NOT small humans and they process medications very differently from us. Medications that cause toxicity are often given days before any signs of sickness. By then, it can be too late for therapy.

Medications that your pet is already taking may be contra-indicated with human medications. An example of this is the concurrent use of aspirin with Rimadyl (carprofen) or Metacam (meloxicam) for arthritis pain or using an NSAID while your pet is on steroid can cause stomach ulcers and perforations.

To be safe, NEVER ADMINISTER A MEDICATION INTENDED FOR HUMANS TO YOUR PET, unless directed specifically to do so by your veterinarian.

For more information or to make an appointment for your pet

Please call us at Sunshine Animal Hospital 813-885-7071



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Paola's Beauty Boutique

By Karen McBride

Treat yourself (or a friend) this holiday season to a relaxing facial at Paola's Beauty Boutique. The boutique offers a variety of facial treatments, from classic facials to microdermabrasion. Bio-therapeutic, microdermabrasion, oxygen and LED red and blue lights are used to bring your skin back to a more youthful, vibrant appearance. First time clients can enjoy the treatment for \$99.

Microcurrent can be used to erase fine lines and wrinkles while firming the skin. The natural facelift improves muscle tone and reduces puffiness. The procedure is also known to increase cellular activity and to tighten pores.

For a more exotic look for that special holiday party, you can get eyelash extensions to really make your eyes pop! The lashes are made of natural hair and are applied one by one to the natural eyelashes. With proper care, they will last up to three weeks.

If your eyebrows need a little grooming, the boutique offers eyebrow shaping (microblading, threading or waxing) as well as tinting services. With microblading, a special tool is used to draw hair-like lines to mimic the natural hairs in your brows. The result is a fuller looking brow.

Paola Cruz, the certified beautician, opened the boutique in 2009. She wanted a place where women could be pampered while feeling safe and comfortable.

"I love to help women look beautiful. The way I help is to improve their skin," said Paola.

Paola's Beauty Boutique received the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund award in 2016. The award is given to Hispanic entrepreneurs who are trying to establish or expand their business.

To schedule your appointment, call 813-270-8626.

Paola's Beauty Boutique is located at 3802 Ehrlich Road, Suite 202, Tampa, FL 33624. The boutique is open Monday through Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm and on Saturday from 9:00am - 2:30pm.

For more information, go to <https://paolabeautyboutique.com/news> or find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PaolaBeautyBoutique>.



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Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

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Dear Mr. George,

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you helping me to overcome my
nervousness and for giving me the confidence to drive.

Your lessons were always very informative, well-structured, and I
enjoyed our laughs. I already have and will continue to recommend
you to anyone who is interested in learning how to drive. Thank you
again for everything!

Maggie McGuane





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Grace Lutheran Church December Events

Sunday, December 16 at 4:00pm "The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" will be presented by the Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra. The concert features Scripture foretelling Christ's birth and music by John Rutter and others. The concert is free and a freewill offering will be collected to support our Music Ministry.


On December 2, 9, 16, and 23, join us on Sunday morning during the Advent season as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Our traditional service begins at 8:30am and our celebration service begins at 11:00am.

Monday, December 24 join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve. Family Service at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary (communion offered)

Carols and Candlelight Services at 8:00pm and 10:30pm

Grace Lutheran Church at Carrollwood is located at 3714 West Linebaugh Avenue off Dale Mabry Highway. If you have questions, contact the church office at 813-961-8747 or visit our website at www.gracetampa.org.

An Act of Kindness:: The Good Samaritan



Jesus answered, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. By chance a certain priest was going down that way. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he travelled, came where he was. When he saw him, he was moved with compassion, came to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He set him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, and gave them to the host, and said to him, 'Take care of him. Whatever you spend beyond that, I will repay you when I return.' Now which of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbor to him who fell among the robbers?"

He said, "He who showed mercy on him."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

— Luke 10:30-37, World English Bible

Merry Christmas!

from Dunndea Publications



I was the May contest winner for Samantha Taylor Fitness training. Thank you again for this! My apologies about taking so long to finally get back to you on my experience. I was staying fit, what can I say? My STF experience was full of JOY! Even with the scar on my elbow from our planks exercise from my first week of workouts! “I’m okay, I’m eating a keto brownie today!” “I am tougher, stronger and leaner now!” “Thanks STF!”

Picture is me with STF’s Coach Donna on my last day of workouts, August 11th! She was always dancing and singing with a smile. STF has my 5 star rating for overall fitness/health program!

Big thanks to STF for donating a free month of workouts for silent auction to support FL Writers Foundation and DDP for selecting my winning entry!

With Joy!
Kara

Good morning and happy Sunday! I wanted to say thank you for your Christian witness in the Carrollwood Gazette! My son and I just went over the verses in being thankful. William has a blood disorder and has just re-entered school for the first time in 3 years. He came home with strep throat last week and his body is struggling hard to beat it. He will probably miss many weeks of school and he feels sad and defeated. I brought the paper home and saw the verses on thankfulness. We just filled them out together and I could tell his mood was lifted. Thank you for your ministry.

Cindy

Thank you for the tickets. It was our first time and we enjoyed the parade, vendors and food at the Spiff International Folk Fair.

Gene P.



“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.”

— Matthew 1:18

Enter to Win!

— A Free Month of Group Personal Training at the Samantha Taylor Fitness Studio

OR

— Admission for 2 to Big Cat Rescue



The Birth of Jesus Christ

1. This is how the birth of Jesus Christ _____

2. Because Joseph her husband _____

3. She will give birth to a son _____

Winners from the Nov. Contest: Heritage Harbor Golf for 2 plus Cart William Stenberg • Ronald Waters • Eliot Miskimen

Share your experience with other readers by sending a note & photo to edit@ddpnews.com.

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What is Christmas All About?

Continued from Page 1

Mary was shocked at what Gabriel had to say but remained calm and listened to everything that Gabriel said. Looking up at Gabriel, Mary said, “How is this possible? I’m not yet married.”

“Do not be afraid, Mary. The Holy Spirit of the Lord will come over you, and you will be blessed with the son of God, and you will call Him Immanuel. He will be hailed as the king of Jews, and the savior of mankind.”

“I’m grateful for what the Lord has done for me, and I’m happy to have His wish come through me.”

Afterwards, Mary explained to Joseph what the angel had to say, about God’s wish and the son she was going to have, and because Joseph was a good man, he accepted everything Mary had to say, and made plans to marry.

Meanwhile, in the days to come, King Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census would be taken because he wanted every citizen throughout the entire Roman kingdom to be counted and documented.

And since Joseph was from Bethlehem, he had to go there to be counted, and Bethlehem was a long way from Nazareth. Joseph and Mary had a long, difficult journey ahead that had to be made on foot.



Mary, who was going to be giving birth, sat on a donkey as Joseph walked along. After many days through the desert, Joseph and Mary finally reached Bethlehem. It was getting dark when they reached the town, and they desperately needed a place to rest for the night, but all the inns were full, and no one had a place to spend the night.

Joseph walked all over town knocking on doors looking for a place, but no one had space for them. With Mary about to give birth, it was important she had a safe, comfortable place for the baby and herself.

It was beginning to look hopeless for a while, until Joseph finally found an empty barn built for cows. There was fresh straw there, and Joseph used it to make a bed for Mary and the manger.

Later that night, Mary gave birth and



baby Jesus was born! Joseph then made a small bed from the fresh straw and wrapped the baby in swaddling cloths and placed Him in the manger. Mary was happy that the prediction of the angel had come true, that Jesus Christ was born.

That same night in the same country, some shepherds were watching over their flock on a hill. Suddenly they saw a bright light in the sky and in front of them was a beautiful angel.



Amazed, not knowing how to react, they listened as the angel spoke to them saying, “Don’t be afraid. I come to give you good news. In the town of Bethlehem, a savior has been born, and His name is Jesus. Everyone will know of this news, so go in peace and spread the good news that a savior has come.” Overjoyed, they ran towards Bethlehem to find baby Jesus, King of the Jews.

On the night Jesus was born, three wise men were traveling on their camels across the desert and suddenly a bright light came down on them and they looked up at the sky and



they saw a bright star. It was a kind of a star they have never seen before. They were aware of the prophecy of Jesus coming and when they saw it, they knew it meant that the King of the Jews was born. During this time, the country was ruled under King Herod, a selfish evil king, and when the three wise men informed the king about the star and what it meant, the king began to worry that he may lose his kingdom to this baby boy.

Herod said, “Go and find this King of the Jews, Jesus, and let me know where he is so I can also worship him.” But he was plotting to



kill the child. As the three wise men followed the star for several days, they found baby Jesus in a barn in the manger and were surprised to find the future King of the Jews lying in a manger where the star had led them.

They bowed down to baby Jesus with valuable gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. It was highly unusual for anyone to give these precious things to a newborn baby.

For these types of gifts were only given to kings. But the wise men knew that this was no ordinary baby, and the wise men fully understood the purpose of Jesus Christ’s birth. Now you know what Christmas is about. Amen!

Luke 2:1-13 • Luke 1:26-30
Galatians 4:3-5 • Isaiah 7:14 • Isaiah 9:6
Matthew 1:18-23 • John 1:14
Philippians 2:6-8 • Micah 5:2-3
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Heritage Harbor Golf

By Samantha Yates

that it's fully open to the public, continuing with this 6,900-yard course not crowded by houses with only five of eighteen holes having homes on both sides.

Stated on their website, HeritageHarborGolf.com, "It's a paradise for birds as well as golfers."

You're likely to spot many birds including loons, hawks, ospreys, ibis, and herons as well as kingfishers. "It's like playing two different courses," says John Panno, Director of Golf. "On the front nine holes is a links style and on the back nine it's a more shot-making course."

Attend lessons with the club's golf professional in groups or individually. Bring your children ages 5-16 to monthly golf clinics. This course, open since fall 1998, is more than just a course but also includes a pro shop and a beautiful clubhouse.

The clubhouse features a restaurant that can be used as a venue for events such as tournaments, weddings, religious events, and other parties of all kinds! Enjoy scenic views of waterways and wetlands or rooms with country-contemporary décor and furnishing. Seat up to 220 guests in the 11,000 square foot Heritage Harbor Club House with gulf coast plantation style and nautical feeling.

Want to check out some of the upcoming events? Attend Heritage Harbor's Christmas Holiday Toy Drive Golf Scramble on December 16th at a 1pm shotgun!

For more information or to register, contact **John Panno** by calling **(813) 949-4886** or emailing hhproshop@gmail.com by December 10th.



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Nautilus Soap Company

By Samantha Yates, Staff Writer

Melissa Brown, the creator of Nautilus Soap Company, wants to help people understand what real soap is, the ingredients used, and that commercial soap is not always real soap. This soap company's mission is "Passionate creation and promotion of healthier choices in bath and body products, and serving our community through donations to local charities."

Ten percent of sales are donated to local charities which are disclosed monthly on the website and on their Facebook page. She provides the name of the charity and a brief description of who they are and what they do. Nautilus routinely offers a 10% discount on a purchase of 3 or more items. This month, Gazette readers are being offered a special online discount with the use of a promo code (see ad).

Nautilus Soap products go beyond just detergent and preservative-free handcrafted soap, shampoo, and conditioner bars. The website, nautilussoap.com, features other necessities such as shower steamers, shaving bars, wax melts, linen and room sprays as well as bathing accessories like natural sponges, loofahs, and shaving brushes.

For more convenience, check out their single, 3, 6, or 12-month subscription boxes featuring related scent or themed items, sometimes specialty, each month. Don't want to guess online about ordering a fragrance? Or do you need a gift for someone and don't really know what to do? Give Melissa a call or email, and she will be glad to have you over to her workshop located behind her home in Lutz. She can help you put together a lovely gift for everyone on your list!

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The Great Florida Outdoors Dr. Robert Norman, Clinical Professor, Dermatology, Nova Southeastern University


What lives on this tree?



While kayaking, I paddled underneath this tree and looked at it carefully. On the left of the tree was the resurrection fern.


Resurrection fern (Polypodium polypodioides)

Resurrection fern is an epiphyte that attaches to branches of forest trees and sometimes upon rocks or dry ground. When dry the resurrection fern looks like it is dying—shrinking into curly gray and brown. But when moisture returns, the fronds resurrect and become



soft and green, unfurling to regain its original shape. (Floridata Plant Encyclopedia)


This was in the middle of the tree. Poison ivy.



As your read the landscape and enjoy outdoor activities, keep in mind that particular native plants—poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, and poisonwood—can make for a bad day. Each of these contain urushiol, a plant oil that can cause a severe skin rash (dermatitis) when any part of the plant is contacted. Allergic reaction can occur by direct contact or indirectly by contact with the oil on animals, clothes, shoes, tools, or other items. Smoke from burning plants spreads oil particles that can be inhaled and cause lung irritation.

Source: Sydney Park Brown, associate professor emeritus, Environmental Horticulture Department; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611. UF/IFAS (University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences).

And this was on the right part of the tree:



The Florida Banded Water Snake is non-venomous and active mainly at night. The snake may be found during the day sunning on banks or vegetation hanging over the water. The Florida banded water snake feeds on fish, frogs, salamanders, crayfish, and tadpoles. Mating occurs in spring and the snake bears live young in summer.

Get out and explore the Great Florida Outdoors!

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| First United Methodist Church of Lutz | 960 W. Lutz Lake Fern Rd., Lutz |
| Calvary Chapel Tampa | 17538 Livingston Ave., Lutz |
| Christ Cumberland Presbyterian Church | 19501 Holly Lane, Lutz |
| Grace Family Church | 5101 Van Dyke Rd., Lutz |
| First Baptist Church Lutz | 18116 US Hwy. 41, Lutz |
| Keystone Community Church | 21010 State Road 54, Lutz |
| Keystone Bible Church | 10925 Tarpon Springs Rd., Odessa |
| River of Life Church, | 410 Chapman Rd. E., Lutz |
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| St. Timothy’s Catholic Church | 17512 Lakeshore Rd., Lutz |
| Carrollwood Baptist Church | 5395 Ehrlich Rd., Carrollwood |
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| Lake Carroll Baptist Church | 12012 N. Rome Ave, Carrollwood |

Samantha Taylor Fitness

Samantha Taylor

When my personal training career started in this area over 17 years ago, Mark Dunn called me and asked if I wanted to be a part of it. I was new in business here but knew I had to get my name out there, so this was the first media outlet I had ever advertised in. As people started to hear about what I offered, through THIS paper, my name started to get out in the community, and in a few years I became the #1 producing personal trainer in the large gym I was in, out of 2,000 trainers!

When it was time to go out on my own, God used THIS paper to give me the confidence that I could find clients outside of that gym. I knew I must, because I wanted to create an environment for women that didn’t want to be in a gym. That wanted a safe place they could work out and not feel judged. I also enjoy catering to Christian women who liked that our studio cared about that.

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I thank God for bringing this paper into my life, and I am SO grateful, for they helped give me the original confidence that I could build this business, and look what its turned into and the amount of people we serve! The owners, Mark and Kay, are some the nicest, most genuine people you’ll ever meet and I appreciate how they honor Jesus Christ in this paper. It’s such a blessing to partner with them, and I’m happy to know that I am the longest advertiser in the last 17 years!

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