

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Betty Eubanks (*out of town*), Charles Goodall, Larry Hicks (*recovering well from surgery*), Linda James (*now seeing a specialist concerning treatment options*), Paul Lloyd (*back; also seeking employment*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds, Wayne Ryland (*blood pressure irregularity*), Ken Turner. *Our family and friends:* Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Diane Fields (*Keri Rice's mom, now is stage 2 cancer*), Ned Hicks, Brian James (*cancer*), Ardis Tucker (*recovering from knee replacement surgery*), and Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law*).

Out of Town: Joe & Donna Brown, Audrey Davis, Ken & Diana Jordan, Jordan Lawson, Bonnie Meagher, and the Sheffields.

Bible Class Review: The next review class for the kids will be August 7th shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.

Area Meetings: There is an ongoing series of lessons being presented every Thursday night at the Lutz Church of Christ. The Southwest Church of Christ, in Lakeland, is having a special series of lessons presented this week also (beginning today, and running through Wednesday evening). Please see the announcement flyers (*in the foyer*) for details.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/20/16

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: Nick Ross
 Invitation: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Recordings: Colby Sadler
 Usher: Larry Hicks

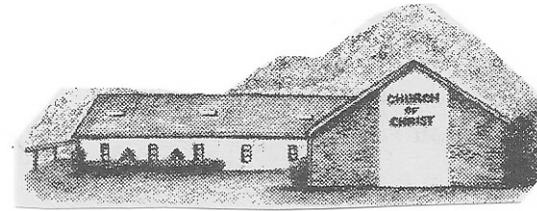
Sunday Evening: 7/24/16

Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
 Recordings: Bucky Day
 Usher: Bob Marschall

Sunday Morning: 7/24/16

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Jim Abram
 Norm Blackburn
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Recordings: Bucky Day
 Usher: Bob Marschall



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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SERVICES

Sunday
 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
 Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
 Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday
 Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
 Charles Rawdon
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Since we are now studying the History and Geography of the Bible Story in the adult class, this bulletin includes some articles written (and pictures taken) by Leon Mauldin. For more information the lands described in the Bible you can visit his website, or sign up to receive his blog-posts, at <https://bleon1.wordpress.com>. (IR)

The Manger, a Bassinet for Jesus

The Gospel writer Luke tells of the night Jesus was born in Bethlehem:

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (2:8-14).



What comes to your mind when you read of Jesus' lying in a manger? Our photo shows a manger (located in Caesarea Maritima) which illustrates that which served as a bassinet for Jesus as an infant.

I never cease to be amazed at the thought! Eternal Deity, Eternal God, the Word became flesh (John 1:14). The One who created all things (John 1:1-3) came to earth, and a feeding trough was His bassinet! Jesus always was and always is divine, but He became human, He became flesh, that He might die for our sins (Heb. 2:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:24).

Nazareth, Jesus' Hometown

With the exception of the birth and very early childhood of Jesus (which was in Bethlehem and Egypt), Jesus lived in Nazareth until He was about the age of 30 (Luke 3:23).

On one occasion early in His Great Galilean Ministry, Jesus preached in His hometown of Nazareth. Unfortunately, it was not well received, concluding with an attempt to push Jesus down to His death:

16 Now Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and the regaining of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to tell them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled even as you heard it being read." 22 All were speaking well of him, and were amazed at the gracious words coming out of his mouth. They said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" 23 Jesus said to them, "No doubt you will quote to me the proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself!' and say, 'What we have heard that you did in Capernaum, do here in your hometown too.'" 24 And he added, "I tell you the truth, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's days, when the sky was shut up three and a half years, and there was a great famine over all the land. 26 Yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to a woman who was a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, yet none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard this, all the

people in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, forced him out of the town, and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But he passed through the crowd and went on his way (Luke 4:16-30).

The traditional location of hill from which the residents of Nazareth attempted to push Jesus is known as the Mount of Precipice. It is 397 meters above sea level, and overlooks the Jezreel Valley.



Pictured above is a view from Mt. Precipice.

From here one has a good view of Nazareth (Pictured below).



Buildings come and go, but the hills and valleys remain the same (as a rule). I.e., the landscape here pictured is what Jesus and his family would have seen.

Here at Nazareth is the Church of the Annunciation, which commemorates the angelic announcement to Mary of God's choice of her to be the mother of Jesus (Lk. 1: 26-38).



Inside the church can be seen the spring which was the city's water supply.

- Leon Mauldin

These types of posts may encourage us to dig deeper in learning more of the History and Geography of the Bible Story. The places, people, and events described are REAL!! Let us use the opportunities now present to learn and appreciate the usefulness of such studies. (IR)