



What's In A Name?



Many people spend the days of December hustling and bustling about trying to find that "perfect" Christmas gift. They often stress, worry, and break the bank over finding and buying that certain gift or gifts for the people they love the most, or even people they just feel obligated to buy for. Others have had their shopping done since the day after Christmas the year before and are cruising the isles of the nearest retail store looking to find the prettiest shiny wrapping paper and the most eye catching bows to finalize their Christmas to-do's.



Bishop, Dr. Billy Johns and Associate Pastor's First Lady Leticia Johns



I would like to know what percent of people in the world number one, know the reason for the Christmas holiday and number two have even thought about the meaning of the name Christmas. Christians, Atheist, Catholics, Baptists and others alike all celebrate this holiday. I don't know one non-believer in Christ that has told their workplace that they decline the day off and will be reporting to the job or have given back a gift because it is just another day for them. What I am saying is that what seems to be the entire world does something on December 25th and I don't think too many citizens of this world have spent time ,at the very least, researching or putting much thought into the title "Christmas Holiday." It appears on every calendar in North America on December 25th like clockwork. Many people have spent countless dollars and countless hours researching their family tree, what there family name means and even where it originated. So as Christians let's take a moment to read up on what our Father's special day means when we break down the word Christmas.

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**GREATER
NEW LIFE
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

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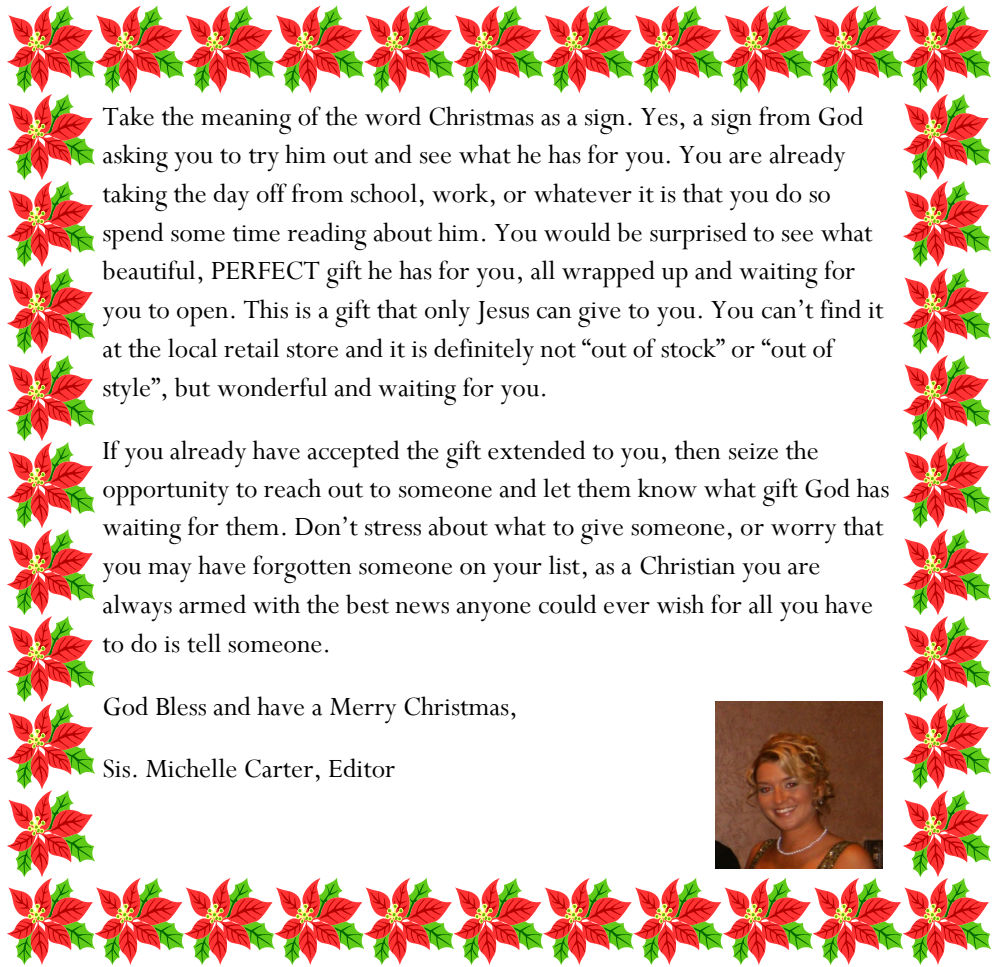
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2009 GNL Theme:

*“For Therein is the
righteousness of God
revealed from faith to
faith; As it is written,
The Just Shall Live*

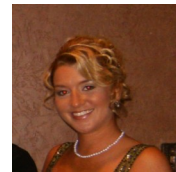
***By
Faith”***



Take the meaning of the word Christmas as a sign. Yes, a sign from God asking you to try him out and see what he has for you. You are already taking the day off from school, work, or whatever it is that you do so spend some time reading about him. You would be surprised to see what beautiful, PERFECT gift he has for you, all wrapped up and waiting for you to open. This is a gift that only Jesus can give to you. You can't find it at the local retail store and it is definitely not "out of stock" or "out of style", but wonderful and waiting for you.

If you already have accepted the gift extended to you, then seize the opportunity to reach out to someone and let them know what gift God has waiting for them. Don't stress about what to give someone, or worry that you may have forgotten someone on your list, as a Christian you are always armed with the best news anyone could ever wish for all you have to do is tell someone.

God Bless and have a Merry Christmas,
Sis. Michelle Carter, Editor



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OUR BISHOP

Praise the Lord. Saints of God, it's a new day and everyday is filled with joy. God is so good and worthy to be praised. I can't contain myself. He boggles my mind with the things he does— the lives he lets us live created in his image, clothes us with his righteousness, and gives us goodness and mercy.

Praise be to God, now what better reason for us to recognize the birth of his dear His dear Son. Saints, no doubt this is the most important day of the year that Christ our Savior is born. So saints, don't let anything else be more important than recognizing the true meaning of Christmas. It is not important for us to celebrate our birthday but Jesus' birthday.

Let this Christmas be forever different than the way we have been celebrating Christmas. It's Christ day. Let's give gifts to him. Who has brought a gift for the Lord? What kind of gift pleases God?



A gift of our time, our talents, and our treasures. Saints, keep this in mind while we celebrate this special day.

Dr. Billy Johns, Bishop

From The Desk Of Associate Pastor & First Lady Leticia Johns

Las Bendiciones de Dios

Aceptar a Jesus como tu Salvador es aceptar el regalo de salvacion que El nos ofrecio en la cruz. Cuando lo consideras como Padre es avanzar un pazo mas. Un padre es el que nos sostiene y protégé en nuestra vida. Y que es lo que Dios ha hecho? En Mateo 6:25—34, nos dice que El ha provisto nuestras necesidades. En Salmo 139:5, nos dice que nos ha protegido de males. En Efiosios 1:5, nos dice la biblia que El nos ha adoptado como sus hijos. Y 1 Juan 3:1, El no ha dado su nombre. Dios ha probado ser un Padre fiel. Y Ahora nos corresponde ser hijos confiados. Amen

Que Dios les bendiga acordando con sus necesidades.

Hermana Leticia Johns

The Blessings of God

Accepting Jesus as Savior is like accepting the gift of salvation that he offered us on the cross. When we consider Him as Father it is like a climbing step. A Father is the one that supports and protects us in our lives. So what has God done? According to Matthew 6:25-34, He provides for all of our needs. In Psalm 139:5, He has a hedge of protection for us. In Ephesians 1:5, Jesus adopted us as His own. In John 3:1, we are called children of God. He gave us His name. God has proved to be a faithful father. And now in return as His children we need to be trustworthy to our Father. Amen.

May the Lord continue to bless you according to your needs.

Love, First Lady Leticia Johns



First Lady & Associate Pastor Leticia Johns pictured at right.

GNL Mission Statement

Greater New Life Ministries is a complete and comprehensive ministry. We come to share the Good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Greater New Life Ministries is instructed by the Lord to lead his people. It is a place for the gathering of the Saints, a place for love, praise and spiritual growth. With the problems facing our society today, Greater New Life Ministries is a haven for God's people. The scripture says, *"Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (St. Matthew 11:28) Saints of God, we want you to know that there is a war going on in the battlefields of our minds. The scripture says, *"Incline your ear, and come unto me: Hear, and your soul shall live."* (Isaiah 55:3).

Come and be a part of this dynamic ministry. Bishop, Dr. Billy Johns and First Lady & Associate Pastor Leticia Johns welcome **YOU!**



Associate Pastor Karen Merriweather

Quote of the Month

“Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.”

Proverbs 28:6

Encouraging Words From Associate Pastor Karen Merriweather

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Christmas is an opportunity for us to celebrate the birth of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. This is not an occasion to take lightly. Christmas is not about the gifts, the food, the festivities, etc. It is a time to reflect on the goodness of Jesus because **He** is the reason for the season. I praise God for my salvation. I know if it had not been for Jesus, I don't know where I would be. He is worthy to be praised. I am grateful that my hope is in Him alone. Regardless of my situation at any given time, it is an awesome feeling to be able to call on the name of Jesus. There is power in the name of Jesus!

I encourage you to continue to remain focus on Jesus during this Christmas season. Don't allow yourself to get so caught up in the festivities that you failed to give Jesus his due honor. Also, don't put yourself in stressful situations. When you have life, you and your family have everything you need. I am reminded of the following quote: “You'll never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.” I am thankful for the birth of my Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. It is through Him that I experience my joy!

“...for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)

Happy Birthday Jesus!!!

To God be the Glory!

Remember those on our Prayer List:

Bishop, Dr. Billy Johns and First Lady Leticia Johns, Greater New Life as a whole, Auxiliaries of Greater New Life, Images of Christ, Pastors Robert & Esther Charles, Heavenly Gates Worship Center, Apostle Rebecca Berry-Washington and Bishop Eldoris Bonner, Evangelist Gino Landin, True Light Christian Fellowship, Min. Dennis Johns & Dorothy Vaughn, Rosalie smith-Keyes & Family, Janet Johns, Andrea & Lucy Medina, Marvin Merriweather & Tasha Austin, Joyce Buffin & Rachel Hill, Enrique Medina, Soledad Medina, Carolyn Jones, Anna Gamez, Glenda King, Kathy Veal, Oshay Keyes & Burnerdine White, Shelly Maddox, Tammy Wells, Jimmy Dominguez, David Saverse, Aurora & Josie Lopez, Judy & Cole Maki, Tom, Michelle and Josie Pool, and Mariela Juarez and Vanessa Palmer.

Christian Education - Sundays @ 10:00am

Our Christian Education teachings apply the Word of God to everyday situations. We don't refer to it as "Sunday School" because we are arming ourselves with the word of God and together building stronger spiritual bonds with our Lord Jesus Christ. We offer Christian Education classes for adults, youth and children. No one is too old or too young to enrich their lives with the words and commandments of the Lord.

Worship Service - Sundays @ 11:15am

Our Worship Services teach us to stand firm in Christ Jesus in times of temptation and things that are not of the goodness of God. Our shepherd, Bishop, Dr. Billy Johns guides us through the Bible so that we may learn how to draw a closer relationship with our Redeemer and share the good news of his mercy and forgiveness to all who accept him as their Savior. We not only learn the to live a life of a true Christian, we also have wonderful praise and worship time to help usher in the Holy Spirit. This is a time to express love, thankfulness and admiration for all that God has done for us and you! God loves all of his people and no one is too dirty, too good or too busy to come be a part of this dynamic service for the Lord. Jesus **IS** returning and don't be left behind. We look forward to seeing you there. Oh, and don't forget to bring a friend!

Christian Education - Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

Come and hear the word of God and refuel your spirit for the rest of the work week. We all need a kind word and enlightenment to get us through until Sunday, back to the house of the Lord. We give testimonies, praise reports and just reflect on all the good things the Lord has done for us. So please come out and give God his praise. We look forward to having you.



Here are just a few businesses owned and operated by GNL members:

Lighthouse Auto Repair, owned and operated by Brother Jae Watson. Call him to schedule an appointment at (512) 677-0956. Or email lythouz@gmail.com

Family Hair World, owned and operated by Mary Dominguez. Call to schedule an appointment at (512)365-5140.

Erica Smith Hair Inc., owned and operated by Sister Erica Smith. Call to schedule and appointment at (512) 485-1003 or visit her website at www.EricaSmithHair.com

Upcoming Events

Check out what is coming up at Greater New Life Church and make sure to mark your calendars.

- ◆ Young Adult Ministry is meeting on Saturday, January 23, at 6:00 p.m. Our Bishop will be discussing marriage. All singles and married couples are encouraged to attend. There will be activities set up for the children and teenagers in a separate room.
- ◆ The Love Offering for our Bishop, Dr. Billy Johns, and Associate Pastor & First Lady Leticia Johns, is Sunday December 27, during the Worship Service. “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine....the laborer is worthy of his reward.” (1 Timothy 5:17-18)
- ◆ Please remember to bring a canned good *weekly* for the GNL food pantry.
- ◆ Greater New Life will be hosting a garage sale Saturday, January 2, at 8:00 a.m. All members are asked to arrive at the church at 7 a.m.
- ◆ GNL watch night is Thursday, December 31, at 6 p.m.
- ◆ The Men of Valor and The Women of Virtue are meeting on Saturday, January 30, at noon.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

PASTOR ~ BISHOP, DR. BILLY JOHNS
ASSOCIATE PASTOR ~ FIRST LADY LETICIA
JOHNS
ASSOCIATE PASTOR ~ KAREN MERRIWEATHER
EVANGELIST ~ DELORES TOWNSEND
YOUTH MINISTER & MINISTER OF MUSIC ~
BOBBY CHARLES
YOUTH MINISTER ~ JENNIFER JOHNS-
CHARLES
YOUNG ADULT MINISTER ~ JODIE MCGARITY
YOUNG ADULT MINISTER & SECRETARY
ASST.~ MARY MCGARITY
ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF GREATER NEW LIFE
ARE THANKFUL FOR ALL OF THE HARD
WORK THAT YOU DO TO KEEP THE CHURCH
ALIVE. GOD WILL REWARD YOU WITH
CROWNS IN HEAVEN FOR BEING OBEDIENT
AND BEING SUCH FAITHFUL STEWARDS.
WE LOVE YOU!

THE GNL FAMILY