

## PRAYER BOOK CALENDARS

Available for \$9.00 at the Besserer Entrance.

## 2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are available for pick up at the Besserer entrance.

## ST. JOE'S CHRISTMAS BIN

We are collecting gently used hats, mitts, and other winter gear along with the usual non-perishable food items, toiletries, and diapers for St. Joe's Christmas Bin. Donations will be collected at the Besserer entrance Dec 8th - Jan 5th



## NEW YEARS DAY PRAYER SERVICE

Join us as we pray in the New Year at 10AM at the Bible House (315 Lisgar St.)

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL NAMES

If you would like to have a loved one remembered in the Christmas bulletins, please submit their name(s) to Jen at [jen@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:jen@messiahchurch.ca)

MESSIAH OFFICE | 315 LISGAR ST. OTTAWA ON, K2POE1

SUNDAY SERVICE | OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE, 400 KING EDWARD AVE. OTTAWA, ON



# CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

*Welcome!*

*Isaiah*  
**THE LIGHT HAS COME**

## DECEMBER 15TH

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS GRIPPED BY THE GOSPEL,  
LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY.

## THE INCARNATION

Dear Friends,

Many Christians, and non-Christians, have problems with the Christian doctrine of the incarnation. The doctrine holds that God the Son of God, while remaining God, took into Himself our human nature, and became a real, true, historical man who walked on earth. Jesus was fully God and fully human yet one person. Many non-Christians criticize this doctrine, and many Christians are uncomfortable with it. Let's consider a couple of matters.

The origin of this doctrine is not from philosophical speculation, but from Jesus, and the Bible. It was very obvious to the Apostles that Jesus was a human being. It is also obvious that He claimed to be God. Given that it is usually the mentally deranged or megalomaniac who claim to be God, it is not a surprise that the four ancient biographies of Jesus (the four Gospels) regularly show the apostles and their confusion about Jesus. Their first hand, daily knowledge of Him, meant that they knew He was not a lunatic or a megalomaniac. Neither was he even remotely like a pagan "god" or "demi-god" – His character was too good. They knew this, but who He was and how He acted and what He said kept throwing them off balance. They did not have a category for Him.

So how did this move towards some type of resolution? Jesus predicted He would die. More than that, He predicted that He would die in a way that He could not control (crucifixion was controlled by Roman Imperial Power). More than that, He predicted that He would rise from the dead. This would vindicate who He was and His teaching.

*(Continued on next page)*

*For your Prayers*

To balance our books for the year, we estimate that we need \$47,500 in the month of December.

This is a completely impossible claim (from a natural point of view), but if it transpired as Jesus predicted, then it is completely reasonable to see the death (by crucifixion), the burial, the resurrection, the empty tomb, and the resurrection appearances as vindicating who Jesus claimed to be, and what He taught about His purpose and human life.

This means that the truth about the incarnation does not rest on philosophical speculation, but upon who Jesus is and what He taught. Given that, "in love He came and sought us;" that He came to give us abundant life; that He came that we might know the truth that would set us free; that He is Himself "the way, the truth, and the life", then it is wise to press into His words and listen and think deeply about what He said. In light of why He became incarnate, and why He died, and the truth of His death and resurrection, then the truth of the incarnation is secure at the level of the heart and the mind. To acknowledge that you do not fully understand the incarnation is not a cop out in the face of criticism from sceptics – because your belief in this teaching rests not on your reasoning, but upon the facts – the truth and power of His death and resurrection

This does not mean that Christians have not thought deeply and well about the incarnation in light of challenges made to the doctrine by other religions, heretics and sceptics. There is a long history of brilliant men and women who have thought matters through and defended the teaching in the face of objection. I encourage you to seek them out! In the meantime, pray that the Lord will grip you anew with wonder and the glory of Immanuel, God with us as God; God with us to be for all who trust in Him.

George+

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# GROWING IN GRACE

## I NEED TO DEVELOP GODLY ATTITUDES.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

## ATTITUDES.

1. I will remember God's promises, and I will see the world as it is, so that I can handle each day well.
2. Lord, reveal to me my idols and then help me to turn from them to You.
3. The more the Gospel grips my heart the more I can get a grip on the real world.

## I NEED TO GROW IN PRAYER.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for serving idols. Please deliver me from all idols so that my faith in You, Your word, and Your Gospel, will grow stronger and stronger and I can live each day on a firm foundation. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

## I NEED TO GET GOD'S WORD IN MY MIND AND HEART.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14 ESV

## I NEED TO DO SOMETHING OR START TO DO SOMETHING.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to \_\_\_\_\_."

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