

E M M A N U E L
Life

December 2016 Edition

UNTANGLING
Christmas

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EMMANUEL
Baptist Church

240 Main St., Bloomfield, ON
emmanuelife.com



PLAYING WITH THE BOX



Christian writer and pastor, Paul Tripp, said in a recent message I attended, “I gave birth to a son who just doesn’t understand gifts. My wife and I would go out when he was a little guy to buy what we thought was the [perfect] gift. He would tear open the gift, and he’d end up playing with the box. It drove us crazy.

I decided one Christmas that I was going to find ... the gift of gifts that he would not be able to resist. I shopped and shopped. I found the gift. I was so excited.

I was even more excited at that moment when the gift came out from under the tree and he was about to unwrap it - much more excited than he would have ever been.

He ripped open the gift like a little boy would ... and, actually got out this toy and began to play with it. I had a feeling of such victory. I went into the kitchen to get something

to drink, was in there for just a few minutes, and came out and he was sitting in the box. I couldn’t believe it.

Tripp says, “If you’re one of God’s children, you have been given the most awesome gift that could ever be given. It’s gorgeous from every perspective. It’s a gift of such grandeur that it’s hard to wrap human vocabulary around it and explain it. It’s beautiful from every vista... It’s the gift that every human being needs. It’s a gift that in all of your work and all of your effort and all of your achievement you couldn’t have ever earned; you could have never deserved; you could have never achieved. It is absolutely without question the gift of gifts. It’s the gift of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, [but] I am deeply persuaded in the face of this gift, there are many people who are content to play with the box.”

“He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.” - Roy L Smith

How about you? Have you received the greatest gift of all? Are you living in the power and presence of His gift of grace?

The Bible says, “To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12.

U2 SINGER BONO SAYS, “THERE MUST BE AN INCARNATION”

After returning home from a long tour, Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock band U2, returned to Dublin and attended a Christmas Eve service. At some point in that service, Bono grasped the truth at the heart of the Christmas story: in Jesus, God became a human being. With tears streaming down his face, Bono realized:

“The idea that God, if there is a force of Love and Logic in the universe, that it would seek to explain itself is amazing enough. That it would seek to explain itself by becoming a child born in poverty ... and straw, a child, I just thought,

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.” - Charles Dickens

There must be an incarnation. Love must be made flesh.”

The Gospel of John says, “The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14



“Wow!” Just the poetry ... I saw the genius of picking a particular point in time and deciding to turn on this ... Love needs to find a form, intimacy needs to be whispered ... Love has to become an action or something concrete. It would have to happen.





THE WORLD RECORD FOR MOST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

In 2001, the Richards family of Canberra, Australia, set the Guinness World Record for the most lights on a house- 331,038 bulbs, to be exact. The family's retina-scorching record stood for more than a decade. Then, in 2012, Tim Gay and his family from LaGrangeville, New York - beat the Richards family. They decorated their house with 346,283 lights. (Many of those were, to add tinsel to injury, synchronized to music.)

The Richards family couldn't stand to be losers so they upped the ante by decorating their house with more than 502,165 lights. (This equates to more than 29 miles of wire.)

But! There is, of course, always room for more light. So, the New Yorkers got their revenge: They covered their own house - and, crucially, its

grounds - with a display that involves 601,736 lights. The whole thing took roughly two months to build. It spans two acres. It also involves much more than lights: It includes more than 200 songs, including both top-40 hits and traditional Christmas songs.

As Tim Gay told Guinness, on the occasion of his win: "My family and I are thrilled to bring the World Record back to the United States." He added, "And we're even more excited that we did it with nearly 100,000 more lights than the previous record."

"People who say that Christmas cannot last all year long obviously don't have a MasterCard." - Author Unknown

700 years before the first Christmas the prophet Isaiah said that the people living in darkness would see a great light (Isaiah 9:2). However, he wasn't referring to the lights on

...continued on page 5.

...from page 4 *The World Record for Most Christmas Lights*

Tim Gay's house! One of the writers of the story of Jesus, Matthew, said that Jesus coming into the world was the fulfillment of that prophecy, and Jesus called Himself the light of the world (John 8:12).

When Jesus shines His light on us, He brings new life, new hope, new direction and a new purpose. We light our homes and trees with lights because Jesus is the light of the world. It is a reminder of who Jesus is and why He came. We no longer need to live in darkness. God wants His light to shine in your heart - so put your trust in Jesus. You won't win any world record, but you will have something that will change your life forever and you receive the greatest gift of all - eternal life.

EMMANUEL KIDS PA DAY CAMP

Feb 3rd & Mar 3rd, 2017
9am to 3:30pm | Picton

"A DAY WITH JESUS"

*Crafts, Bible Stories,
Swimming & Friendship.*

[Lunch & Snacks Provided]

Ages 5-11yrs | limited space

FREE!



Registration Required | 613.920.1178

NIGHT AT THE NATIVITY

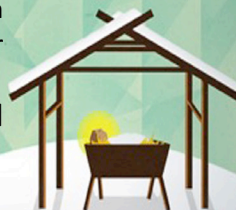
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21st | 6PM

Families (of all ages) are invited for some holiday fun & fellowship. Enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner and learn about the Nativity through music & craft.

FREE OF CHARGE | RSVP by Dec. 11th [613.920.1178]

emmanuelife.com

**Children must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian.*



UNTANGLING CHRISTMAS



In case you're stressed about getting ready for Christmas - with all that shopping, cleaning, and getting the Christmas decorations up - one company is trying to help. Unfortunately for us, they're in England. Tesco, a British supermarket company, posted an ad for a new job - a Christmas Light Untangler. The company's website offered the following description for the 36-hour-a-week job: "This new position will offer you the chance to show that every little helps, by running the unique in-store service with a friendly, flexible approach and making a genuine difference to the little things that matter to our customers this Christmas."

Tesco says candidates should be able to untangle 10 feet of Christmas lights in less than three minutes as well as check the bulbs for signs of breakage. The ideal candidate should also "be passionate about Christmas," the posting says.

Christmas can certainly be a stressful time, which is a shame because Jesus came as the prince of peace. The angels that appeared to the shepherds in the field announced, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all men." Luke 2:14

If we are going to untangle Christmas, we need to find the real message in the midst of all the tinsel, lights, turkey and gifts. Jesus came to this world as a Saviour. The Bible says that He came to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10). That's each and everyone of us before we come to know Jesus, we are lost. Lost to the Good News of the story of Jesus. Salvation comes when we repent of our sin and put our trust in Jesus Christ. He came for you.

Although Tesco might be able to help get your lights untangled, the best way to relieve the stress is to come to know Jesus Himself.

a County Christmas

SAT. DEC. 10th | 5-7pm

*An illuminated walk-thru
of the Christmas Story*



YOU WILL FIND

A BABY

WRAPPED IN

SWADDLING

CLOTHS AND

LYING IN A

MANAGER

- LUKE 2:12 -

2 COREY STREET • BLOOMFIELD, ON
emmanuelife.com  

ENGAGEMENT RING DONATION



The Salvation Army receives some strange items in its red kettles during the Christmas season. Lieutenant Michael Harper, commander of the Cambridge Salvation Army in Boston said, "In addition to money, I've seen watch batteries, paper clips, safety pins, all sorts of strange things, but this one takes the cake." The gift was a diamond engagement ring given by a widow in honour of her late husband. The Salvation Army says that the anonymous benefactor placed the diamond ring - valued at

\$1,850 - and her wedding band in one of the kettles placed outside Boston's North Station.

The rings were donated along with a note honouring the benefactor's late husband: "I've dropped my wedding ring in your Red Kettle knowing that the money from its sale will buy toys for needy children," the woman

wrote. "In all seasons, my husband was a giver. I especially remember his joy in giving at Christmastime, especially to those in need. To honour his memory, I donate this ring." The rings sold a few days later for an astonishing \$21,000, eleven times their appraised value.

At the bottom of her note, the anonymous donor wrote: "To find out what a man is worth, take away his money and his possessions."

...continued on page 9.

Get Yourself Organized for Christmas, by *Kathi Lipp* gives you easy-to-follow steps to reduce the stress of the holiday season. By putting into practice her tricks and tips you'll finally be able to fully enjoy this most wonderful time of the year. Whether it is the end of October or already December 1, this book has great suggestions for busy moms and all their Christmas preparations. It is an easy read and funny too.





God gave us the greatest gift of all - His Son Jesus. Giving gifts is very much a part of our Christmases, it is our response to the gift Jesus has given us. The wise men who came to worship Jesus brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Christina Rossetti wrote the Christmas Carol, In the Bleak Midwinter. The last verse of that carol says:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man,
I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him:
give my heart.

As that anonymous donor wrote, "To find out what a man is worth, take away his money and his possessions". If what you're left with is Jesus, then you have everything.

*"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought,
doesn't come from a store.
What if Christmas...perhaps...
means a little more!" - Dr. Deuss,*

How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

Christmas Eve

Sat., Dec 24th | 6.30-7.30pm
Christmas Carols. Speical Music.
A heart-warming reminder of what
the Christmas season is truly about.

STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD

God's Purpose: Peace and Life

God is the Master Artist. He created the universe and everything in it, and made us so we could have fellowship with Him. God loves us and wants us to experience His peace and life - abundant life in this world and eternity with God. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

The Problem: Separation from God

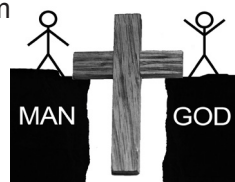
God created us in His own image to have everlasting life. When we choose to disobey God, going our own way and not His, this is sin, and separates us from God. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." - Romans 3:23



God's Bridge to Himself: The Cross of Jesus

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people. "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.'"

- John 14:6



Our Response: Receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and invite Him into our life. When we do, He comes into us through His Holy Spirit. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him, and he with me." - Rev. 3:20

How You Can Know Jesus Today

- Admit your need for Him.
- Be willing to turn from your sins.
- Believe that Jesus died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
- Invite Jesus to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

How to Pray:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you prayed that prayer, give me a call - I would like to give you some materials to help you come to know Jesus better.



WE'RE SAVING A SEAT FOR YOU

SUNDAYS 9AM & 11AM

SUNDAYS

Morning Service (Full children's programs) **9:00AM | 11:00AM**

Evening Service/Bible Study **7:00PM**

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study **1:30PM**

Small Group Study. Lite Dinner Included. **6:30PM**

Visit emmanuelife.com for more information on current study.

Emmanuel Kids (JK to Grade 5)

Fusion (Grades 6-8)

THURSDAYS

Surge (Youth - Grades 9-12) **7:00PM**

Hangout, have fun, make friends, and learn about God.

Real Life Young Adults (Age 18-25ish) **7:00PM**

Looking into God's word & seeking after REAL LIFE.


EMMANUEL
Baptist Church

240 Main St., Bloomfield, ON
info@emmanuelife.com
613 393 2234

- Watch us LIVE ONLINE | 11am Sundays -

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Be the Light

MATTHEW 5:16

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