

Behold! Good News, Great Joy!

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10b-11

Celebrate God!

Luke 2:1-*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.*

2-*(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)*

3-*And everyone went to his own town to register.*

4-*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.*

5-*He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.*

6-*While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,*

7(a)-*and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.*

7(b)-*She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

ELDER MEETING SYNOPSIS REGARDING BETHANY'S GIVING NEEDS

Monday night, December 8, 2008, the Elders met regarding the church's financial situation. The elders approved the financial management Team's recommendation to cut the 2009 spending plan an additional 11% - amounting to a decrease of \$266,629. This brings the Spending Plan in line with our projected income for 2009, which is based on the current level of giving. The reductions of funding for specific areas of ministry are as follows

Salaries and benefits – A 9% cut based upon a freeze in salaries, and cuts in staff benefits.

Missions – 9% in cuts, including the targeted gradual reduction of missionary support in some cases, and the reduction of funding for missions encouragement, equipping, Serve Long Beach, and Short-Term Missions.

Christian Education – A 14% reduction with decreases in ministry funding in Children, Youth, College, and Adults

Music – A 19% cut with decreases in spending in the areas of seasonal performances and Tempo music and Maintenance.

Administration – A 13% decrease with cuts in staff development, custodial services, advertising and programming.

Facilities – A 20% reduction in cost based upon a reduction in the property insurance premium and cuts in the area of upkeep.

Though these cuts will impact our ability to move forward with some ministry plans, if giving continues at its current level, these reductions will put us in a realistic position to fund the ministry.

Deeper cuts in Church Staffing and Missionary spending can only be avoided if we make up our 2008 deficit this month. If giving in 2009 is stronger than anticipated, we will be able to reevaluate some of these areas and reinstitute the original Spending Plan for that area.