

# England Hill Chronicles

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

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## 'Tis The Season - To Reflect On God's Love

Once again we are heading into the biggest holiday season of the year. Christmas is a busy time. Church Christmas programs and ministries that take so much time and effort, but are so rewarding. Families come together, perhaps the only time during the year that they get the opportunity, to have dinners, exchange gifts and watch Christmas specials and football games on television. Parties with church family, friends and co-workers. Shopping, oh the shopping, for those special gifts for the never-ending list of family, friends and co-workers.

None of these things are bad in and of themselves. We enjoy seeing our families, we enjoy the Christmas television programs even though we have watched them year after year, many times the football games are lame, but we watch them anyway and of course we enjoy the smiles on the faces of those that we have given gifts.

How many times have we had good



intentions to focus more on Christ and less on the X-mas? How many times have we decided that we are going to finally have a Christ-centered Christmas, but we are so exhausted by all the activities that we never have time to reflect on what we are celebrating. I'll confess, this has happened to me and when all is said and done there is an empty feeling. I have been busy, but

I didn't give the time I should have to Christ.

Unfortunately, with the current state of the economy, we may not be able to participate in all the normal activities. Gas prices may keep families home. Shopping may have to be sharply curtailed. Parties cancelled because of the same reasons and possibly because of loss of employment.

Maybe God is trying to get our attention. Maybe if we won't slow down by our own choice, He will make the opportunity for us.

This season spend more time in His Word. Spend some quiet time reading the accounts in Matthew and Luke of the birth of Christ. Meditate on what God has done for the world in general and you in particular. Give Him your praise and thanks. He is worthy.

**Merry CHRISTmas**

## The Greatest Gift

The following speaks for itself. It is the accounts of the events leading up to and the birth of Jesus as recorded in the books of Matthew and Luke. Please read and give thought to these passages and what they mean to you.

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

Mat 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Mat 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Mat 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Mat 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Mat 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Mat 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Mat 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Mat 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Mat 2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Mat 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Mat 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Mat 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

### **Luke 2:1-20**

Luk 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that

there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

Luk 2:2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

Luk 2:3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Luk 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because (he was of the house and lineage of David:)

Luk 2:5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Luk 2:6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

Luk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luk 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luk 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round

(continued on page 3)



Brother Willie May

## The Pastor's Point Of View

Have you ever just reflected back on the birth of Christ?

### The Birth of Christ

After His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a

public example was minded to put her away secretly.

But while he thought about these things, behold an angel appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus:

### For He Will Save His People From Their Sins

The prophecy of a virgin bearing a son, Immanuel which is translated "God With Us" was fulfilled when Joseph was aroused from sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn son. And he called His name Jesus.

Because of this child that later gave His life for mankind, we have - A BRIGHT FUTURE.

## What A Wonderful Savior We Have

During this Christmas season I would like you to consider the circumstances surrounding our Savior's birth.

Jesus was with God the Father:

*And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

*Revelation 4:2-5*

Jesus was in Heaven:

*And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*

*Revelation 21:18-21*

And yet, even though he was in the presence of an awesome God whose wonder can only be hinted at by the description above, and even though he was in Heaven that is so beautiful and where we all desire to go, Jesus consented to come to Earth as a man:

*So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*Luke 2:6-7*

From God to man, from majesty to birth in a stable, from Creator to condemned, but Jesus knew that He could not redeem man without making these sacrifices. Jesus became and gave us the perfect gift, reconciliation to God and eternal life.

I encourage you, if you have not done so already, accept His gift. Then, as is customary, give Him a gift in return, your life and your service. You will never have a Merrier Christmas.



## Merry Christmas

## Midge's Shoes

By: Ruby Hensley

Mildred (Midge) Kress wore a lovely pair of black shoes as a part of her costume for Old Fashion Days, November 23, 2008. Midge inherited the shoes from her grandmother, Alice Miller, whose death occurred in 1958.

Alice was a charter member of the first England Hill Free Will Baptist Church. She donated her Bible as part of the cornerstone for that first church when it was being built in 1943. Hopefully the Bible can be recovered intact when the church is demolished.

Midge kept the shoes in their box on a closet shelf. It would have been interesting to have heard some of the conversations in the Kress household over those many years. No doubt Ervin would have said "Midge, be quiet, I want to study my Sunday School lesson."

Who will wear the shoes for Old Fashion Days fifty years from now? Maybe Jill's granddaughter or even her great-granddaughter.



## England Hill Chronicles

England Hill Chronicles is a quarterly newsletter published by England Hill Free Will Baptist Church. All submissions, questions and comments should be directed to the following email address.

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All scriptures, unless otherwise indicated, come from the King James version of the Holy Bible



## Ervin's Corner

...by Ervin Kress

We would like to thank Brother Willie for giving us the opportunity to fill this corner with stories of the past in the old church.

Since this will be the Christmas Edition of the church newsletter and the first edition:

I remember the first Christmas Dinner I attended in 1950.

We met in the long room on the right-hand side as you go down to the basement. It was a bigger room then. Because we did not have restrooms inside, we had to go outside in the back of the church in those little buildings with half moons on the doors. (We put restrooms in the larger room later on.)

The tables were made with boards laying on wood horses covered with white oil cloth.

There were concrete floors and there was one big space heater.

For the Christmas Dinner each person brought a covered dish and the church furnished two turkeys and a ham and volunteers prepared them.

We did not have paper plates at that time so everything was glass plates and cups and silverware. We did not have a dishwasher so it all had to be done by hand.

The Lord has blessed us since then with an annex and parking lot on ground that use to be a swamp.

## Food For Thought

by Dave McClelland

In Genesis 1:26 God said "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...." So we are in the likeness of God. In Matthew 12:33 Jesus said, "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit." In John 15:8 Jesus said, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." So being in the likeness of God, we are to bear fruit, that's our nature. As we walk in God we bring glory by bearing fruit. What kind of fruit? In Galatians 5:22-23 Paul said, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." These are the things we should produce as Christians, what is happening when we are not showing these fruits? We are by choice going against the will of God and against his Spirit. When this happens we labor to show these fruits of the flesh, and notice the wording of scripture in Galatians 5:19, "Now the **works** of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like...." It is easier to produce fruit of the spirit than to labor for the flesh! Which fruit do we have?

*Note: In the short time that I knew Dave McClelland I came to know him not only as my Sunday School teacher, but considered him a good friend. I had the opportunity to talk to Dave outside of church and found that he loved to talk about God and the Bible. When this newsletter was first announced, Dave was the first one to submit an article and had even begun an article for the*

second edition. We will all miss him very much.

Rusty Dillon

**David Curtis McClelland**, 45, of Ashland, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008, in King's Daughters Medical Center. He was born Feb. 10, 1963, in Ashland, the son of Curtis L. McClelland of Catlettsburg, Ky., and the late Bessie Maynard McClelland. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Diana L. McClelland. He was an employee of the Boyd County Road Department with 24 years of service, an ordained minister of the Freewill Baptist faith, a member of England Hill Freewill Baptist Church and a 1981 graduate of Boyd County High School. David will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother and grandfather who was strong in his faith to his Lord and church. He always had a smile for all those he met and will be greatly missed by his loving family and many friends. In addition to his father, survivors include his wife, Lynn Wurts McClelland; two daughters, Jill Leigh McClelland and Jessica Dawn Robbins, both of Ashland; two sons, David Curtis Clayton McClelland and James Dustin Robbins and his wife, Stephanie, of Ashland; a sister, Deena M. McClelland of Charleston, W.Va.; a brother, Darrell T. McClelland and his wife, Cindy, of Catlettsburg, Ky.; two grandchildren, Conner James Robbins and Macey Lynn Robbins; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, at England Hill Freewill Baptist Church by Pastor Willie May. Burial will be in Golden Oaks Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday at the church. Miller Funeral Home in Ashland is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to England Hill Freewill Baptist Church.

### The Greatest Gift

(continued from page 1)

about them: and they were sore afraid.

Luk 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luk 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Luk 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Luk 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luk 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the

shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Luk 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luk 2:17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Luk 2:18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Luk 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Luk 2:20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



### Destination Heaven

(Church Bus Ministry)

By: Topper Spry

The bus has recently been gone over and has new tires - its in great shape. We have really been using it a lot lately. For those who haven't ridden on it, the bus holds thirteen passengers and also has a wheelchair lift.

We also have a small bus available if need be. Our church is really fortunate to have these buses available for our use.

Lets Keep The Wheels Rolling

## The Church - Worship - Family

By: Willie May

All Christians share in the challenge and responsibility of making our congregation a place where people of all ages are encouraged and enabled to become increasingly mature as Christians; not only for ourselves, but for others. Helping others see that we are a church family is one thing, but do they feel like they are a part of our family? It should be our mission to help others meet Christ, know Christ, and serve with Christ.

How can we, in the Lord, show respect and care to others around us in all age groups? We need to find a way to engage children, teens, young adults, college, married, divorced, widowed, middle age, and older Christians to feel that family type of atmosphere. We need a place where we can share and care for each other no matter the age or gender. We need to focus on true worship and know that God is satisfied with our worship instead of whether our brothers and sisters in Christ are satisfied with our worship.

Worship is more than the song you're singing, type of song, emotions, testimonies, the style of testimonies, or how you pray. Worship is your life. Every aspect of your life takes 24 hours a day, seven days week, and 365 days a year. As Christians, we should cast our eyes upon Jesus and stay focused on Him. Instead of worrying about pleasing others, we should make sure that God is pleased with our lives.

Keep in mind, everyone needs the Lord, and the church is one generation away from extinction. Youth are not the church of tomorrow but the church of today. We all are a part of the church and no one has a promise of tomorrow. We have the responsibility to work so that if Christ does not make His return, the church will continue into the next generation.

In these challenging times, the harvest is great but the laborers are few. I wonder as a congregation if we can put personal and generational preferences aside, how much further could the church reach out? Praise and worship should be between the individual and God. We ought to be able to worship freely, and with a pure heart.

**Hebrews 12: 1-3** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

## What Are You Waiting For?

By: Justin May



There are very few things in life that I despise doing, and one of those is going to the West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Transferring my license back to the great state of West Virginia, I had to face the inevitable; the dreaded take a number system. Let me describe to you what I saw. I walked in and took my ticket and had a seat in a less crowded area and began watching people (one of my favorite things to do). A large room of very anxious people from all walks of life were setting with their tickets in their hands waiting for that special number to appear on the out dated screen. To my left was a young man that was all smiles, his long blonde hair covered his eyes, but his smile was shining through. He had conquered the driver's license test! Freedom at last! Also to my left was a young couple that had just gotten married. They were waiting with anticipation for the chance for the bride to officially change her name to match her new husband. A lady in front of me was watching to see if anyone was watching her, she started restlessly bopping to the music nearly coming out of her chair.

Then, I saw something that changed my perception of being frustrated and tired of waiting. The sign rings out B098 (right before my turn). A gentleman gets up with his two sons and walked quickly to the window, but when he turned to face the clerk the sons' mother came walking down the aisle. "Mommy!" was heard ringing throughout the waiting area. "I haven't seen you all day!" I then began thinking about life. Isn't that where we stand? We're born and we take a number, just waiting for that final moment when our number is called. We go through embarrassments, boredom, anxiety, and various other emotions, but do we take into account who's really waiting for us?

That father had been waiting to pay his license and registration fees, but the son was waiting to see his mother's face that he hadn't seen since leaving on the bus for school in the early morning hours. Isn't that just like us? We live to enjoy the better things in life, to provide for our families, and give money to charities. For what? Christ says that He came to give strength to weary and more power to the weak (Isaiah 40:29).

We have something to look for! Christ is waiting for you! He also says that He's going to make a place for us and take us to be with Him (John 14:3)! That means that's He's fervently waiting to be with YOU. There's more to life than what you can see! Don't waste your time waiting on things that will disappear, wait on the things that are eternal! So what are you waiting for? Life is short, what's your number? What or who are you waiting for?



## The Kress Library

By: Lorie Chaffin

How exciting to have another way to talk about one of my favorite things - books. This will be a wonderful information outlet to let everyone know what is going on in the library, and there is always a lot.

We have so many new books and this is a great time of year to curl up with a good book! We have books on about any topic you would like. If we don't have what you are interested in, let us know and we will get it for you!

If you are looking for a new Bible we have many you can check out and look through before you purchase one.

We have a lot of reference materials available if you are studying a particular topic.

Sometimes for a deeper understanding it might help to know what Billy Graham or Charles Stanley might say.

Its amazing how much you may learn in reading some of our fiction books.

When in need of encouragement Max Lucado or Charles Swindoll may be what you need. We may think we are the only one in a particular situation, but a lot of times someone else has been through it too. Its encouraging to see how God helped them through their trials and know He will help you too.

Come by and check us out!

Happy Reading

**Births**



**Olivia Lee-Ann Fischer**

Congratulations to Aaron Sylvester Fischer and Jennifer Lynne Fischer, proud parents of newborn, Olivia Lee-Ann Fischer.

Is Daddy proud? You only had to be at the Wednesday night (12/10/2008) service for that answer, as Aaron made sure that everyone got a up-close and personal look at his new daughter.

**Stats:**

Born: December 4, 2008  
 Time: 8:47am  
 Weight: 8 lbs 5 oz  
 Length: 21 ½ in.

**...In The Service**



**Jeff, Miko and Noriko Lester**

Staff Sargent Jeff Lester, son of Fred and Faye Lester, is now serving in Iraq, but is stationed in Japan. He entered the U.S. Air Force twelve years ago and has been stationed many places. Jeff met and married Noriko Tomabechi while stationed in Japan in 2001. They had their first child, Miko Bailey Lester, in June of 2008. Noriko and Miko are still in Japan while Jeff is in Iraq. He hopes to be back with his wife and baby in January 2009.

**Mailing Addresses:**

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**James Robinette**

James Robinette, son of Ronnie and Alice Robinette of Catlettsburg, joined the U.S. Air Force in 1990. He has successfully worked his way up to Master Sargent. He has been married for 10 years and has two sons. He has been station in Little Rock, Arkansas since 2004 and is scheduled to be deployed to Iraq in February 2009.

**Home:**

525 Highway 321  
 Beebe, AR 72012

**In Memorial**



**Dave and Lynn McClelland**

Dave McClelland taught us so many lessons through his life. He was a great individual -

a loving husband, grandfather, father, son and brother, a wonderful and dear friend. A model Christian - he was sincere in his ministry, a teacher of the Word not only in scripture but by example. He was a church member who dedicated himself as an encourager and was consistent in his faith. Many lives have been touched and enriched just by knowing him. Dave and Lynn have been such a blessing and addition to our church family.

We speak of a short life, but when compared to eternity, who has a long life? In scripture, a person's days on earth is compared to a vapor, its here, then it vanishes away. (James 4:14) In God's plan every life is long enough and every death is timely. Though we wish for a longer life God knows best and He does not make mistakes, our time is appointed - "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment". (Hebrews 9:27)

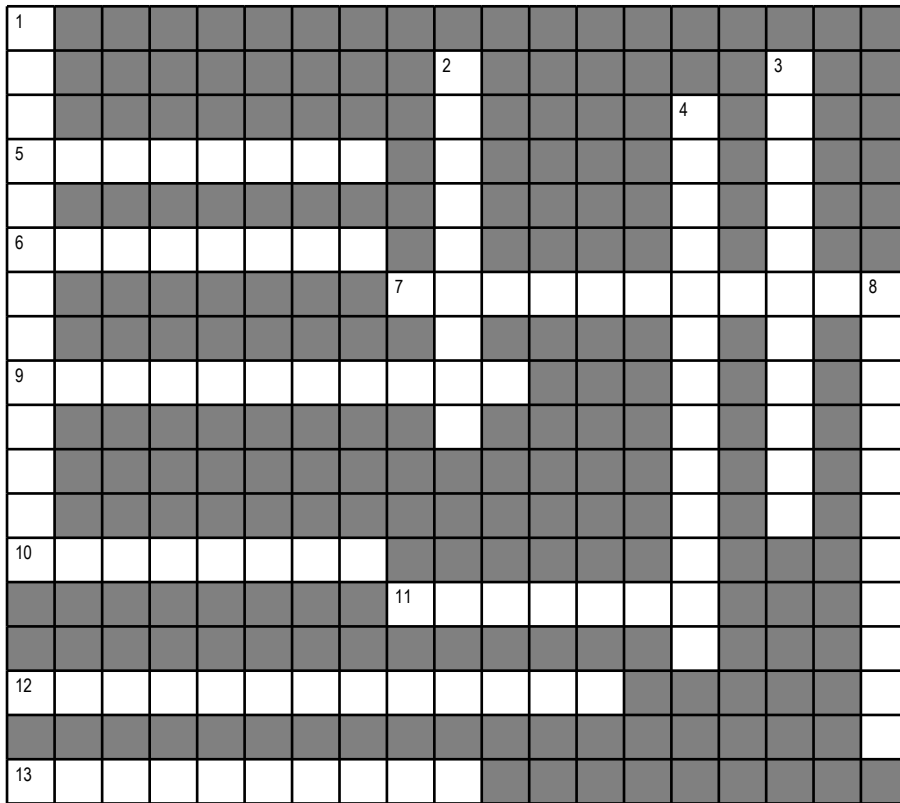
It is difficult to accept God's plan. Yet, while we are shaking our heads in disbelief - those in Heaven are lifting hands in worship. While ad-

ressing worship, I would like to reflect back on Dave's demeanor and his worship. He was able to express a feeling of peace and put others at ease with his smile and soft chuckle. He was not concerned with styles or generational preferences, but his focus was in his worship and substance. It didn't matter what type or style of music, the message in the song always remained his focus. We are going to miss his teaching, testimonies, singing, kindness, encouraging spirit and his fondness to discuss God's Word.

While our hearts are low, Dave's spirit is overflowing with joy to be in the presence of God. While we are mourning, in Heaven they are marveling at the beauty and splendor in the Father's presence. At times we will question God, especially his family, and ask - "Why?", but in the time we question Dave will be praising God. Our loss is truly Heaven's gain.

Willie and Sandy May

# THE FLOCC AND THE LAMBS



**ACROSS**

- 5. Some fans of this band are collectively called Gomers.
- 6. This band was formed in Australia in 1985 and has been one of the most popular and best-selling Christian music artists of the past two decades.
- 7. His/Her song was voted one of the Top 3 most popular contemporary Christian songs of the decade
- 9. Known for their 2007 hit single "Undo", which was the most played song of 2007 on Adult Contemporary Christian Music radio stations
- 10. Pyrotechnics at Winter Fest 2008
- 11. 2002 Songwriter of the Year Award - Bart Millard
- 12. Pop music best selling artist
- 13. Self described "radical girls of God"

**DOWN**

- 1. Voted CCM Readers' Choice Awards "Favorite Band", "Favorite New Artist" and "Favorite Album" in 2005
- 2. Canadian Christian music group from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Aye?
- 3. GMA New artist of the year 2005
- 4. She also provided backup vocals for the music video at the end of the VeggieTales program, Larry-Boy and the Fib from Outer Space! and the opening of the VeggieTales presentation, Larry-Boy and the Rumor Weed.
- 8. Christian pop punk band derived their band name from working with kids on youth camps.

**A New You**

By: Nichole May

A new year, a new you? Let's be honest ladies, how many times have we said, "My new year's resolution is to lose weight and I really mean it this time!" Then there we are, two weeks later into the New Year telling ourselves that you will start the diet, *again*, tomorrow. Believe me I'm there! Now I know this is just one example of a New Year's resolution, but what does that word really mean? Is it something you just say you are going to do or have you ever fully carried out your pledge? Have you ever thought of committing to make a spiritual-resolution?

I have a few challenges for all of us this next coming year. Why is it we never seem to have enough time in our day? Do you realize that we are only on this planet long enough to do what God placed us here to do? So, my first challenge for you is to stop worrying about and spending time doing "the small things" in life that really does not matter. Instead, take those precious moments to spend with family or friends.

The second challenge is to stop procrastinating! Believe me, I am preaching to the choir right now because I am one of the world's worst when it comes to this, but why do we put off something until later when we can get it done today? Have you ever thought, "I'm going to witness to (fill in the blank) the next time I see them." What if that "next time" never comes? Remember

that we are not promised another breath, so why not pick up the phone and call them right then?

My third challenge is to have "God and me time" everyday. Do not just give him the leftovers! Why not try to wake up 30 minutes early each day and start your day off with the one who created you? I realize that some of you may already do this and that is great, can you increase your time 15 more minutes? I know what you are thinking because I do it too, but hitting the snooze button three times or laying there for five more minutes really isn't going to give you much more rest. Try going to bed a little earlier so you are ready to face the day that God has made just for you when that alarm goes off. I think we all would be amazed at how much better our day would go when we spend some time in the morning just having a little talk with Jesus. This does not mean that every day will be wonderful, but I believe the good days will outnumber the bad! God wants to be a part of our lives and everyday. Not just Sunday morning, Wednesday, or when we feel like it, but every single second of the day. So let's make a spiritual-resolution together to let go, and let God have his way in our lives! Let's focus on the moments in life that matter the most and forget about the rest. After all, we only get one shot at this life so let's make the most of it while we are here because remember, the best is yet to come!

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Years!**

**The Perfect Gift**

By: Justin May

As the Christmas season swings in full force, it is so easy to get swept away by the hustle and bustle. It's so hard to find that perfect gift every year that will just take that special person's breath away, and the truth is we become too worried about if they will or will not like the gift you have chosen. God searched and found the perfect gift that would not just last for a little while and get thrown in a trash dumpster, but would save the world forever! This Christmas, think about this: 61% of twenty somethings have been church-ed at some point in their young life but they are now spiritually disengaged (i.e., not actively attending church, reading the Bible, or praying). More sadly than that, only two out of five parents over the age of 40 take their kids to church (The Barna Group). If you're looking for a *perfect* gift for your world, school, church, family, or generation, give them JESUS!

**Goals for January:** See at least two youth come to know Christ as their savior.



Justin & Nichole  
May