

**Lancaster Baptist Church**

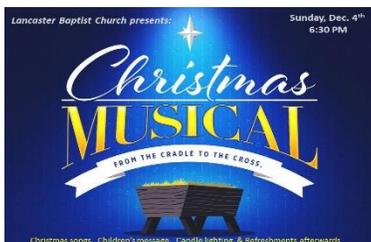
201 Richmond Street  
Lancaster KY 40444  
(859) 792-2781

A COMMUNITY OF GRACE  
THAT IS GROWING  
AND GOING

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**DECEMBER**

- Christmas Musical Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM
- Christmas Meal Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> after AM service
- Christmas Caroling Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM
- Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM
- Christmas AM Worship on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM



**PRAYER WARRIOR**  
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016  
Willena Crutchfield

**FAMILY LIFE CENTER WALKING**  
Monday – Friday  
(7:42 – 10:02 AM)

**From Your Pastor** *Is Jesus Worth It?*

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:21**

Sunday evening we watched a movie called "The Insanity of God." If you have not watched it, I would encourage you to get it (now out on DVD and available at Christianbook.com). The movie was about a couple, Nik (from Eastern Kentucky) and Ruth Ripken, who served in oversea missions for over 30 years. For years, they labored in countries (like Somalia) where there was much persecution towards anybody coming to faith in Jesus Christ (often imprisonment, beatings, and death). Then, the Ripkens were sent on a global pilgrimage to find out how the Christian faith was not only surviving but thriving in the most anti-Christian areas of the world.

My eyes were opened to the faith and courage of believers around the world. We saw a mother and son visit their father who was in a Russian prison and they could hardly recognize him as they laid him on the picnic table. The son said to his father, "I'm so proud of you dad." When Nik told a group of believers in China about how the believers in Somalia were killed because of their faith in Jesus, he heard them all up an hour early the next morning praying for believers in Somalia and they made a commitment to get up an hour early the rest of their lives to pray for Somalia.

Nik emphasized that "normal Christianity," today as well as in the Bible, not only survives but flourishes in persecution. Persecution (for their faith in Jesus Christ) to much of the world is as natural as the sun coming up in the East every morning. "When we talk to believers in persecution, they love our prayers. They detest our pity. They say to us all the time - please do not pray that we will be rescued from our suffering. Please pray that we will be obedient." I was reminded of how little the American church understands persecution and how we are so filled with fear (offending somebody, being rejected, being ridiculed,...). One group of believers Nik met said there were 2 categories: the "Persecuted" and the "Persecutors." Anybody who did not share their faith should be included in the "Persecutors" category. That is a different perspective but if we know the truth and don't share it we are guilty.

Nik and Ruth lost a son, Timothy, while on the mission field. Life was hard. Many Christians were imprisoned, beaten, and tortured in the effort to get them to renounce their faith in Jesus. (They considered prison to be their seminary because that is where they learned so much about God and His faithfulness.) The question that Nik presents in the movie is simply, "Is Jesus worth it?" That is the question that persecuted believers around the world often have to answer. Praise to the Lord, their answer is a resounding "Yes!"

Nik said, "What astounds me about believers in persecution - they cry out and they suffer. But when they sit in the corner of the prison, they fear no evil because they know their focus is not on the crucifixion, it is on the resurrection. They know one day, regardless of what happens to them in this evil world, they will be resurrected to meet their glorious Lord. I want to live with that perspective and proclaim "Jesus is worth it!" **Bro Harold**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS MUSICAL:** Sunday, **December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** the choir will present "From the Cradle to the Cross." We will have refreshments following the musical. Please bring your favorite Christmas cookie/sweet treat or appetizer to share. We will have hot chocolate and apple cider. Please invite some to join you!

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** Tonight (30<sup>th</sup>) at 7:30 PM.

**CHRISTMAS MEAL:** Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> after AM Service. Invite somebody to join you and let's set a goal of 400 that Sunday! We won't have evening service on the 11<sup>th</sup> if your SS class would like to get together.

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION:** Competition will be on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> (during Christmas meal). Entry forms are on the front table in sanctuary due in by December 9<sup>th</sup>. (Great family activity.)

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Monday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM!

**SMALL GROUP HOST HOMES:** We would like to do some small group Bible studies in homes starting in the middle of January. There is a sign-up sheet on front table if interested.

**POINSETTIAS:** If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of a loved one/friend please contact Dorothy Murphy. They are red and white and \$10.

**UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING:** Practices have started. We would love for some to come out during practices and get to know the parents/grandparents. Practices are Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 6:00-9:00.

**RIGHTNOW MEDIA:** This is like "Netflix for the church" featuring thousands of video sessions that members can access anytime, anywhere. We will be able to instantly stream biblical teachings to our Sunday school classes, home groups, men's/women's groups or youth/children groups. Resources from over 150 leading Christian publishers will be available. Exclusive streaming resources from David Platt, J.D. Greer, Eric Mason, Francis Chan and more will be a click away.

**SALVATION ARMY:** If you would like to ring the bell for the Salvation Army Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> anytime between 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. please contact Vicki Murphy or there will be a sign-up sheet on the table in sanctuary. We are trying to get enough people to work an hour at a time but will take as many volunteers as possible.

### PRAYER REQUEST (*Pray without ceasing... 1 Thessalonians 5:16*)

Della Hall – 548-9250

Buddy Arnold	Stephanie Elam	Theo Long	Tonia Warren	<b>LBC</b>
Blanche Ballard	Mark Fields	Doris Lucas	Rhonda Watkins	Bro. Harold & family
Sue Ballard	Jimmy Flynn	Landan Maynard	Lucy Wayne	Bro. Stephen & family
Ronnie Barnes	Jim France	Lindsay Meadors	Flonnie Whitaker	Bro. Nehemiah & family
Lynn Bateman	Rosetta France	Verity Morrow	Billy Williams	Bro. Ken & family
Melvin Bottom	Arthur Gaffney, Jr.	Cline Mullins	Charlotte Winter	Chervens
Pat Brown	Zachary Gay	George Peek	Melanie York	Amanda Hubler
Kaleigh Burkhardt	Barbara Hackney	Amber Rankin		Michael Anderson
J.O. Burkhead	Barb Hall	Sheridan Ratliff	The Lost	Our Deacons
Bud Byrd	Jeanne Hall	Adriana Rodriguez		Our SS Teachers
Jerry Carrier	Leland Hall	Lisa Logan Rogers		Church Leaders
Brianna Cherven	Marsha Hodge	Dave Ruda	<b>HOMEBOUND</b>	New Believers
Leah Cherven	Misty Horton	Jane Sammons	Jewell Callis	<b>COMMUNITY</b>
Levi Clontz	Ryan Hunt	Amos Sharp	Lois Carrier (CCC)	County Judge (Wilson)
Susan Conley	Carolyn Hunt	Kathy Shelton	Nellie Cole	City Mayor (Davis)
Rosa Cranfill	Cheryl Johnson	David Simpson	JoAnn Grow	Representative (Shell)
Kristine Caudill	Linda Jones	Virginia Simpson	Allene (Peg) Dollins	Police/Sheriff Dept.
Gladys Dailey	Julia Kay	Danny Smith	Juanita Gullett	Fire/EMS
Lloyd Dailey	Donna Kendall	Pam Smith	Della Meadows (CCC)	Schools
Ruth Dean	KY Choice Treatment	Katherine Sowder	Anna Meadows	Lost
Charles Denton	Mandy Lynch	Tyler Stratton	Tina Montgomery (CCC)	<b>NATION</b>
Jo Denton	Carl Kidwell	Andy Sutton	Marie Naylor	President (Obama)
Jeanne Dobbins	Bill Lamb	Mike Sutton	Dorothy Shockley (CCC)	President Elect (Trump)
Mike Doughy	Jean Land	Pauletta Teater	Myrtle Stump (CCC)	Governor (Bevins)
Josh Duncan	Molly Lanham	Bill Vanderpool		Legislatures
Mike Durham				Armed Forces
				Missionaries