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Inside this Issue

1 Verse
Minutes from December Meeting
Poem –Deborah Pinnell

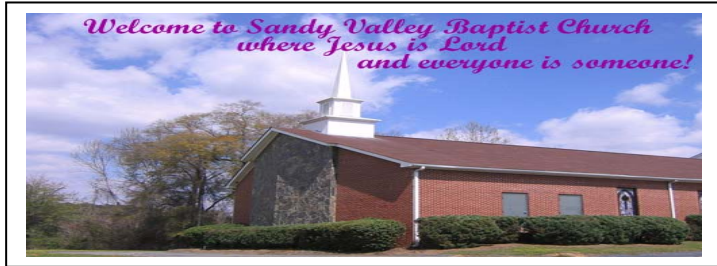
2 Story – Spirit of Truth

3 Project Information

4 WMU Information



Sandy Valley Baptist – SOS



Verse for the Month:

*The Spirit of Truth will
guide you into all truth.
John 16:13*

Minutes from December Meeting:

Old/New Business –

Visit Children's Home in Meansville – we voted not to continue Secret Sister this year, instead we will visit the home and have a birthday party for the girls who live there.

Thanks to Ann for hosting our December meeting at SOS Christmas gathering.

Upcoming Visit to Children's home for Patricia's Birthday (January 5)

Will you still love me?

What can I do to deserve your love, is there something I must achieve? What can I say to be closer to you? How much more can I believe? I love you and I worship you, oh LORD you are my reason to live. But so many times I fail you too, how much can you forgive? Is there a point I can't return from, is there a limit to your grace? Is there a way to fall so far from you that I could lose my place? I feel like I am slipping and I need to hold your hand, I feel like I can't do it all right and maybe I never can. I want to stay right where you are I want to feel secure; I want to live right where you are, of that I am sure, so will you come and make my aching heart your own, I can't go on without you LORD I feel so alone, I miss your presence now and I ache within my soul, whenever I grieve your spirit it leaves a giant hole. So bring it back fill me now I can't take this pain and grief, I have to have you here with me I need some relief so will you come? Will you stay? Will you never go away? And even when I fail and even when I am not who I should be will you come to my rescue? Will you still love me?

Spirit of Truth

Bible Verse for the Month:

John 16:13

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." (John 14:6).

I have been struggling with this Christmas and letting my children go spend time with their dad in Charlotte, NC. It's the first Christmas I have spent without them and it was not easy. It was a sacrifice that I made for them to be happy and give time with the other parent that they do not see as much as they should.

I have also struggled with listening to others speak of Christmas and santa claus. I am a non-believer when it comes to teaching the kids a fairy tale that distracts away from the true meaning of Christmas and the birth of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have tried to understand the reasoning behind all the commercialism and why people choose to teach the fairytale to their children and as each year goes by it's harder to comprehend.

My dad best described how the fairy tale is like a lure, (fishing lure). I am far from being a professional fisherman and it's been a long time since I cast a line out in the water, but I know enough to know that those professionals do not use live bait anymore. It's all the fake stuff... and the question is why? The real stuff does not attract the big fish like the "Shiny – Sparkly Ones". The fake ones have more hooks and will be sure to catch more and bigger fish. Just like the one in a shiny red suit, with a

jolly smile and will give the kids what they have ask for throughout the year.

I decided to look up santa claus in the dictionary and the encyclopedia and see what it had to say – I found it interesting and suggest others to look up and make their own decisions.

This note is not intended to offend or upset anyone – it's my personal belief that I felt the need to share about the TRUE meaning of Christmas – the Spirit of TRUTH.

Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ – it's His birthday. I ask the children at Church on Wednesday night and the children in my Sunday school class what they were giving Jesus Christ for his birthday. We came up with 10 things and I wanted to share with you too:

Our Heart

Our Love

Glory

Our Praises/Thanks

Our Worship

Our Prayers

Our Singing

Our Faith in Him alone

Gift for someone else in His name

Love toward others

Projects:

Meansville Childrens' Home – Names of children that I have birthdays for:

Melissa 6 Aug 17 years old
Felicia 6 Mar 15 years old
Patricia 4 Jan 16 years old
Brandi 26 Feb 15 years old
Ashley 5 Aug 16 years old
Amanda 2 May 17 years old
Mikayla 24 Mar 14 years old
Patrice 23 Oct 15 years old
Kathryn 24 Jun 15 years old
Britney – not sure (new girl)

Those interested in taking a trip January 5 to have a birthday party for Patricia please let me know - Sarah

Upcoming Project: Habitat for Humanity: Received letter from Andrew United Methodist Church asking for assistance at the beginning of 2008.

Upcoming New Project: Children's ministry day February 16, 2008

Secretary Notes: Please provide Ms. Shauna with any updates to addresses and phone numbers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Donna Harrison – 11th
Shauna McCoy – 17th



Information from

WMU Website:

From Missionary Ridge for January 2008

by Wanda S. Lee, executive director/treasurer of WMU, SBC

One of the great joys of being involved with WMU is the opportunity to meet and know missionaries in a personal way. I'll never forget the day I was having lunch in Bosnia with a missionary who shared that she received her call to missions while reading an article in a WMU magazine!

Missionaries inspire and motivate our efforts to help people understand and be radically involved in the mission of God. As we encourage churches to support missionaries by praying and giving, state and national WMU organizations also provide special services to meet needs they may have while on the field. Providing water purification systems through our Pure Water, Pure LoveSM ministry, scholarships for missionary kids coming to the US for college, and other special gifts are just a few ways WMU ministers to missionaries. National WMU also provides their choice of WMU magazines for free while they are actively serving.

Recently the Missions Mosaic staff received the following letter from a long-time missionary to South Asia. She validates the importance of sharing missionary stories through WMU magazines among the missionaries themselves. Even though you may not always see the end result of your praying, giving, and even working in WMU in your church, please always know that together we are making a difference.

Dear Friends at Mosaic and the national WMU leadership,

We are about to close out our career of 36 years on the field with IMB! During most of those years you have faithfully sent to me the issues of Mosaic. As a young missionary living in an isolated place, these magazines (then called Royal Service) provided me with encouragement, challenge, and a connection with other Baptist women. In these later years I have drawn from these insightful magazines devotional and Bible study ideas which I have in turn used in my teaching throughout South Asia.

I want to commend you on all you are doing through the Mosaic. I grew up in GAs (Girls' Auxiliary) and YWA (Young Woman's Auxiliary). How thankful I am for the seeds of missions planted in me in my young and formative years. How I thank you, also, for the emphasis of prayer and giving that has always been a stable support for us missionaries . . . Because of the support and education WMU has provided in the churches, our work is stable and ongoing with a broad base of prayer support. Often whenever we were at rock-bottom and feeling powerless and nearly hopeless, we knew we were not hopeless, because God had people we did not even know praying for us. Thank you for the birthday prayer calendar . . .

. . . Thank you for your input into my life all my life, and for being faithful to the mission cause and God's love and desire for the people of the world who don't know Him yet. May God bless you all at Mosaic and the leadership of WMU for all you do to keep God and His plans the main focus in our lives.

Gratefully yours,

Diana Norwood

IMB missionary to South Asia

(WMU offers retired missionaries a special discount of 40 percent on each magazine once they have

returned to the US. If you know of a retired missionary or you are one and wish to continue receiving Missions Mosaic or another WMU publication, please call WMU Customer Service toll-free at 1-800-968-7301.)