

## His Name is Christian, But He Isn't One

Various and odd instances brought me into contact with a man whose first name is Christian. He had been through some trying times and needed help. In the process of things being done, I asked some of the usual background questions and in so doing received answers which seemed to indicate a possible openness to the gospel. He is from a large family and from a different part of the country than me. He is about a year older than me and has been retired for several years. He is conscientious and does a lot of volunteer work. He also enjoys traveling to various parts of the country. When asked about church background, he replied that he was not necessarily against any sort of church affiliation, he just has never had much interest in it.

Since he was in transition, I did not have time to have a deep conversation about Jesus. I did, however, provide him with some tracts and other material to read. I have also corresponded with another preacher about someone contacting him with the gospel.

My encounter with this man has caused me to do more thinking and pondering about people and their spiritual condition. Here is a man whose name is Christian, but he is not a Christian. How ironic! He has just quietly gone about his life for years, apparently without ever really seeing the need for Jesus in his life. As far as I know, he is not an open opponent for Jesus; he just does not have the interest. You and I might cry out, "Oh, but you really need Jesus to save you from your sins!" That is true, but until a person sees it for themselves, they will do nothing about it. We need to be open and attentive to such people.

Another matter that comes to my mind is the condition of those who call themselves Christians, but whose actions in attaining that name do not match up with scripture. I know people may shrink back with unbelief at such assertion, but we must consider such things. For example, would you just treat a man as a "Lion" (member of the local Lions Club), who called himself a "Lion" but never paid the dues and never attended meetings? He just acted like one. Or, how about a woman who claimed to be an alumnus of the state university, but never attended there? People may indeed act in ways consistent with the message of Christ, but not be Christians.

These things seem rather simple when broken down in illustrations like those above, but the emotionally-charged and heavily "personal" nature of modern-day religion make things so much more complicated. The fact of the matter is, evangelism can be difficult. It takes patience and is a genuine concern for other people. In this, as in all things spiritual, may we remember the words of Paul: "I planted, Apollos waters, but God gave the growth" (I Corinthians 3:6 ESV)

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## *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Glenn & Brittany Osborne on the birth of their daughter, Peyten Marie, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 20 inches long. Also, congratulations to the grandparents, Buck & Kim Osborne.

## *Prayer Requests*

♥Pray for each of the following: Pam Jackson, Gerry Wyer (Dianne Tonkery's mother), Joann Hall, Margret Brand, Darrell Freeman, Noah Miller Jr., John Pheasant, Marsha Kisner, Sharon Little, Dallas Shaffer, Kaylyn Lipscomb, Buck & Kim Osborne, Asher Deaton, Edith Gull, Robert Moore, Edwina Summers, Rolle Sullivan, and Nicholas Lough.

♥Pearl Gooden is hoping to be released from UHC on Monday so she can stay with family members living in Good Hope.

♥Dave Perkins is still recovering from his recent surgery and will be off work for a few months. Please keep Dave in your prayers.

## *News and Notes*

**Free Market** – Our annual Christmas Free Market will be held on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to donate items, please leave them in the Upper Fellowship Hall. PLEASE NO TELEVISIONS!! If you have any questions or would like to help, see Mary Lough.

**Sunset International Bible Institute Classes** – We will NOT be having class during the month of December. We will resume on January 5, 2017 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Topic of study will be the book of Ephesians (12 week class) and the book of Isaiah (24 week class). If you would like more information, please see Darrell Conaway. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Pleasant Acres** – We will be in charge of services at Pleasant Acres on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM. Please see Kevin if you need more information.

**Teen Christmas Party** – Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM in the Teen Room. If you need more info, please see Joel.

**MOPS** – Meets on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Upper Fellowship Hall. If you would like more information, please see JoAnna Kirk.

**Ladies Sock Exchange** – All ladies are invited to a Ladies Sock Exchange & Brunch on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. This will be held at the home of Mary Lough. Please bring a wrapped pair of Christmas socks for the exchange and your favorite breakfast dish. Please see Mary for more details.

**Church Christmas Party** – Our annual Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> immediately following the morning service. Please bring a covered dish and join us! For more info, please see Phil Dotson.

**Song Night** – Please join us on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for our Song Night.

**New Year's Eve Party** – Everyone is invited to attend the New Year's Eve Party at the home of Kevin & Mary Lough on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please bring finger foods.

## *Thank You*

The Oakwood Road Church of Christ would like to thank the children and parents of the Whitehall Nursery School for the generous donations of canned goods for their food pantry. They were able to give out extra items this past week thanks to your help!