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Nov/Dec 2002 issue 3

BeaconOU



Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden.

This Christmas remember others and pray.

"Pray for the peace of Israel. God is not through with His chosen people. God's desire is for people of all nations to come to know Him in a personal relationship through Jesus Christ." Ricky Thomas

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season

By DESOLA ODUNAYO
 Christmas has always been an exciting time for me. I grew up in Nigeria and the Christmas season was just different and unique. I love the beautiful trees and the sparkling lights. I like the joy and excitement that always accompanies the season. It brings a lot of joy to me also to see people go out of their way to get something for another person. My dad would always get about 30 hamper baskets from friends, and I would watch eagerly hoping

that he would allow me to invade the baskets and get all the goodies I wanted from them. More often than not, about 25 of those baskets would be given to other families as Christmas gifts and I always asked him why he deprived us of the benefit of getting all the good stuff. Quietly and gently, he would explain to me that Christmas was a very special season that was all about giving and sharing. It was all about showing love to everybody around, and, although I did not

really understand why things were that way, I accepted what he said, since he was the "wise man". A few years after I got into the most important relationship in my life, my relationship with Jesus Christ, I began to understand the real meaning of Christmas.

The only reason we celebrate Christmas is because God gave the most precious thing that He had.

■ Please see...Jesus on p2

Rejoice...For Our Savior Is Born

Editor's Note: The following is the account of Jesus' birth found in the book of Luke.

Luke 1:26-35, 2:1-20

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The

Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God..." And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus



that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 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

■ Please see...Rejoice on p4

EVEN



ODD

Remembering The True Meaning Of Christmas

By ROSE CRESWICK

So often, around the Christmas season, we go into the stores and see the lights, merchandise and festive ornaments. We watch a few warm/fuzzy sorts of movies and joke about Santa coming down the chimney. We have fun and enjoy ourselves, but in our excitement, we must not lose sight of the principle truths represented by this holiday.

Christmas is about more than things looking nice, stores making a profit, getting gifts or even family time. Though these things are wonderful, Christmas is originally and primarily about a little baby who came into the world because His Father loved us. It is about royalty laying down His crown and embracing poverty, so that we might experience spiritual wealth.

Consider how, two thousand years ago, a young woman told her fiancé, a man she had never slept with, that she was pregnant! Imagine what he must have thought and the derogatory

expressions that must have come to mind. Yet this was Mary, mother of my Lord. Joseph received confirmation from the an angel. Months passed, Joseph stayed with her, and the Son was born. By all appearances, he was a normal baby. He cried, he wanted his mom, he needed to be changed, and he grew up. He walked life's road—experiencing pain and hunger, loved-one's dying, friends betraying Him—but he walked without sin and it was this blameless life that made His birth important.



When people celebrate, it is important to keep in mind that Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth, is only a part of the

greater story. Perhaps unfortunately, it is the part we are most comfortable hearing. It is nice to think that a little baby was born for me. Then I have to think how this baby would grow into a man who would die in my place. Am I really such a bad person? Was that really necessary? Yes, it was. You see, I've sinned. I've told lies, I've been glad people can't read my thoughts, I'm not perfect, I've missed the mark. A Holy, Good, Just, God, though He loves me, cannot look at me in my sin.

Only one man has ever been perfect and it was Jesus Christ. He was fully man and yet fully God and let the Pharisees know it.

Often Jesus would refer to Himself as the "Son of Man," which was a direct quote from the prophesy of Daniel. Reporting a vision, Daniel wrote, "I saw one like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven . . . To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, . . . that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13-14). Without a doubt, the Pharisees knew what Christ

was saying and they plotted to kill Him.

Thirty-three years after the Messiah's birth, the Jewish leaders succeeded in their scheme and satan won a victory he couldn't keep. You see the Pharisees, though some were good people and did good things, really did not know their God. They did not understand His words and so they fulfilled them by killing His Son.

and commit our lives to Him, or we can pay for our sins all by ourselves. The latter option, however, requires an eternity separated from God. Personally, I'll accept Christ.

The story doesn't end here though because even death could not hold the Son of Man down. In three days, Jesus Christ, a mere Jewish carpenter, proved His sovereignty by defeating what no mortal man can.



Christ, however, had come into the world with that in mind. He, the only one who could, was voluntarily taking our place on that cross. It wasn't nails that held Him there. It was love and the knowledge that He could pay our debt.

As much as human nature hates to admit it, there are only two ways to pay God back for the sins we have committed against Him (and every sin is against Him because it is His law we are breaking). We can either accept Christ's death as the atoning sacrifice for our sins

He was God and had paid the price we never could. In Him, the Victor over death, is Life.

This life, this death, this atonement, this resurrection is the true meaning of

Easter and also the great significance of that baby's birth. It is the result of the story that Christmas began.

Merry Christmas. May the True God of Heaven bless you.

"The truth always matches, piece by piece, with other parts of the truth."
— President Woodrow Wilson.
1856-1924

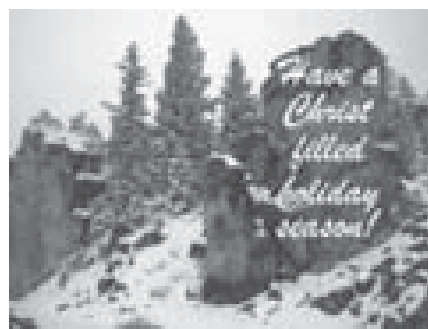
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Letters to the Editor



Oops, We did receive letters this month, but I am in Tulsa

and they are one my other computer. Sorry. Remember, all letters to the Editor may be reprinted in a latter editon of the Beacon unless specific request is made by the sender not to publish their letter. Let your opinion be heard.

Jesus is the Reason co. p.1

Christ gave up His throne, His royalty, His prestige and came down to dwell among his creation. He lived a very humble life, bringing glory only to the Father. He gave up sleeping and relaxing so that He could faithfully meet the needs of those that flocked to him. He healed the sick and gave hope back to those that had lost hope. As if that were not amazing enough, He meekly allowed himself to be crucified on a tree amidst the laughter and mockery of those that did not believe in him. He bore the agony while He was on the cross, He was bearing the sins of the whole world and

God could not behold iniquity.

That was the first time the Father was separated from His Son and the agony of that separation made Christ cry out for His father. He could have come down from the cross if he wanted to. He could have decided to prove to those that were laughing that He was really God, but He didn't and only one thing kept him nailed to that cross. Love! He loved us enough to bear the pain and the suffering. He loved us while we were yet sinners, and He still loves us with an everlasting love.

As this blessed season approaches, let us not forget the reason for it all, Christ, who first loved us and gave himself for us.

How To Survive Finals Week

By MIKE BROWNING

There is something special in the air. Christmas lights start to go up. Carols start to be played in every store you walk into. Salvation Army ringers start asking for donations. Are we all ready to get in the Christmas spirit? Yeah, right.

If any of you are like me all you are thinking about are those finals you have coming up. You seclude yourself in your room, studying every textbook you have, leaving only for absolute emergencies such as eating, (Actually you probably order in).

Finals are a very stressful time, and it sometimes overwhelms us, especially when this is your first time to experience them. But through it all, if we keep our focus on God and ask for His help, we will make it through.

I know from personal experience. The hardest week I have had as an OU student occurred during the spring semester of my freshman year. In a matter of three days, I had so many things pile up that I was not sure how to handle it all.

First, I was driving back from Tulsa when a tire went out on my car on the turnpike. I went to put on the spare, but the hubcap key was bent to the point where it would not come off. At the time, I had no mobile phone, so I was forced to walk five miles to call "AAA".

That was stressful enough, but also that week I had two tests, a seven-page paper due, and many meetings to attend.

Looking back at it, I realized that I never turned my stress over to God. As the week continued, the stress just built on itself. I was not sure how to deal with it.

Finals were about a month later. I had several tough finals, including three within a fifteen-hour period. This time I saw the stress coming in advance. I prayed that God would help me through the struggles I knew I would face.

Even through the week, I would pray constantly for God to take the burdens of stress off my shoulders. It was amazing. The week went by smoothly. Yes, I had to study and stay focused, but the overwhelming stress never came.

God promises never to put any struggles in our path that we cannot handle through him. I think a very appropriate place to read is James, chapter 1. Pay especially

close attention to verse 12, which reads, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life God has promised to those who love him." Yes, this has a given, ultimate meaning, but I think it fits well to finals as well. When we withstand the trials that finals will bring, God will reward us in the end. So, work hard in these last couple weeks. Study hard. But do not forget what is most important, and that is keeping God the main focus. If you let Him help you through the struggles, he will reward you.

And what can be a better reward than a four-week break not having to worry about how you did. So, have a Merry Christmas everyone; remember the real meaning behind the holidays is JESUS, the

Messiah of all peoples, and God Bless!

Mike's final study tips:

Actually study: Wow, amazing idea. Don't wait until the last second to cram. If you do, you will be amazed at how much material those profs. can actually put into a semester.

Get physical: Don't burn yourself out on studying. I like to go out, shoot some hoops and allow myself to get all that extra energy out. Go to the gym, take a walk, just do something.

Relax: This is a thing most people overlook. If you go into

your finals relaxed, you will feel more comfortable and probably do better.

Pray: No, don't pray that God will make it snow five feet so you don't have to go to class. Study well and pray that God will help you with the knowledge that you have learned. Of course, five feet of snow wouldn't hurt.



EVEN



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Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the Truth with the world. Our source of funding is God. His Holy Spirit moves on people's hearts to give financially to support printing. If you would like to sponsor an issue of the BeaconOU or part of an issue, send an e-mail to rick777ok@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, letters to the editor, or opinions about any of the articles, you can contact us at rick777ok@ou.edu. We will soon have a BeaconOU web-site up and running. Praise God. We have the right to print or not to print any article submitted. President: Rick



Thomas. Vice- President: Darci Montgomery. try: Asia Smith. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown.

■ **Cont. Rejoice
from p1**

them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them. "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

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

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the thing seen,

**I'm
Thankful**

BY UNKNOWN

"I'm thankful for the daily food,

Upon our table spread,

For meat and milk and fruit so good,

For work that brings us bread.

I'm thankful for each bird that sings,

For stars and waving trees,

For colors which the autumn brings,

And sounds and sights like these.

I'm thankful for my bed and rest,

For dark when daylight ends;

Of all my thanks, this is the best:

For family and friends.
That's you!

**Wise Men
Still
Seek
Him. ***

**Advertise with
the BeaconOU
and help sup-
port a student
newspaper
that has a pur-
pose and is
worth reading.**

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What should I do with my life? Why was I created?

How can I make a difference? Is there a God? What does He think?

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a dynamic 15 week course that meets on Saturdays, where you'll learn about God's nature, purpose, and ways in the world. You'll be enabled to let Him grip your heart with the things close to His....and become a vital part in them. This course is designed to equip and mobilize Christians to contribute their own unique abilities in their own strategic place of service to advance the Kingdom, whether locally, nationally, or internationally.

Perspectives examines 4 aspects of God's eternal purpose:

- Biblical - What does God's word reveal about His plan for all nations? (You may never read your Bible the same way again!) (week of Jan 13 - week of Feb 10)
- Historical - How has God been utilizing unlikely people and surprising events throughout history to develop true worship among the nations? (week of Feb 17 - week of Mar 10)
- Cultural - How does culture fit into God's global picture? How can the gospel be effectively communicated to people with different worldviews? (week of Mar 24 - week of Mar 31)
- Strategic - How is His purpose being achieved today? How and why is the gospel making breakthroughs in previously resistant areas? (week of Apr 7 - week of Apr 28) The course is designed to explore four basic dimensions of God's Global purpose: Biblical Mandate - God's unchanging purpose from Genesis to Revelation Historical Foundation - How God has used history to shape the future Cultural Awareness - How God has shaped other cultures and prepared them to receive the Gospel Strategic Planning - How God is accomplishing His plan and how global efforts are strategizing to work where God is working.



*Biblical: Two thousand years before Christ, the Lord told Abraham that in his seed all the nations of the world would be blessed. Two thousand years ago, Jesus came to earth to die for the world. Now, it has been another two thousand years. Is there a connection between Abraham's promise, the Messiah's coming and what is happening in our world today?

*Historical: When William Carey stood before a room full of pastors and pressed the need to take the gospel to India, he was told, "Sit down, young man. If God wants to reach the heathen, He will do it without your help or ours." But in 1793, William Carey sailed to India where he would start churches, oversee six complete translations of the Bible and found colleges. How are we to respond to the Great Commission of Christ?

*Cultural: The Savi people of Irian Jaya were head-hunting cannibals, and treachery was their highest virtue. When missionary Don Richardson told them the crucifixion story the tribal members thought that Judas Iscariot was the hero because of his act of treachery. However, that wasn't the end of the story, Today the Savi people have a growing church in their culture. How could this happen?

*Strategic: In the year 100 AD, there were 360 non-Christians for every believer on earth. Now in 2002, the number has shrunk to only 9 non-Christians for every believer on earth. Can the completion of the Great Commission be near?

To learn the answers to these questions and more, check out our www.okcperspectives.org and come join us at Perspectives on the World Christian Movement! What makes it unique?

- Perspectives is probably the best and most foundational missions class to date. Developed by missionaries and other experts at the US Center for World Missions in Pasadena, California, this cross-denominational course has been offered around the globe and has over 50,000 graduates
- Each class is taught by a different expert. A premier group of speakers will be coming from around the US to instruct and inspire you.

Perspectives is offered for certificate, undergraduate, or graduate credit through Trinity International University.

Bill Bright
Founder & Director
Campus Crusade for Christ

Perspectives gives people an opportunity to be exposed to the faith-stretching challenge of world missions from the first hand experience of those God is using on the field. I heartily endorse this effort.

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Upcoming Events For Campus Ministries

XA GameDay - Sat, Dec 14th

Have you heard? - You can bring your family and friends to an OU Basketball Game. We have a block of tickets available to us for the OU/Coppin State Men's basketball game and we're having a Pre-game BBQ Luncheon before the game @ Rome XII. It's an opportunity to invite your friends and family to come see Rome XII and one of the best College Basketball teams in the nation! **Tickets for the game and luncheon are only \$15ea. Luncheon is 11a.m.-1p.m. with Tip-off @ 2p.m.** XA GameDay Order Forms are available @ Rome XII or the XAoffice and soon will be available on line @ www.XAoklahoma.com

**XA Christmas
Party - Sat, Dec
14th, 7pm Open-Air Ice
Skating & Dinner in
Downtown OKC.**



Was Handel a drunken pagan, or an inspired Christian?

Join Dr. Stephenson as he investigates this musical classic and explores it as a Christian Apologetic.

From all sources, it seems that the question of George Frederick Handel's religious beliefs play a vital role in criticism of his famous Messiah. Dr. Ken Stephenson, OU Associate Professor of Music Theory, draws upon information from Handel's life, from that of the librettist of Messiah, from contemporary political and theological ideas, and from the music itself to arrive at an answer somewhere between the extremes, and to show that Handel's original intention was not to write a Christmas piece!

When: Wednesday, December 4, 7PM

Where: Conoco Auditorium, Lower Level II, Bizzell Library.

Speaker: Dr. Ken Stephenson, Associate Professor of Music Theory, University of Oklahoma.

Sponsored by FOCUS, The College Ministry of Wildwood Community Church and OU Christian Faculty and Staff.

**Finals Bash -
Tues, Dec 17th the
29th Semi-Annual Event, 8pm
till 3am +++ @ the Tiffany's
(418 Macy) Games, Food, Fun &
more. Because there is life in
the midst of Finals!**

**S.A.L.T. - Jan 3-6
@ the Westin
Park Central in
Dallas, TX**

XA's Winter Conference with students from Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado & Kansas coming together for intense worship, teaching and fellowship!

Cost is \$120 each or \$250 for married couples (if regis by Dec 9th)

check out the online info and registration @ www.campusrevival.com

We we would love to hear from you. Send us your ideas, prayer request, and suggestions as how we can serve you. Have a

great day and we hope to see you Tuesday, 7:30P.M. @ XAlive.

Greg & Susan Tiffany

OU XA Campus Pastors

**Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
@ the University of Oklahoma**

office - OMU / Conoco
Leadership Wing

OUtreach Center - Rome XII
/ Stubbeman Village Mall

phone: (405) 325-1377



e-address: OU
XA@aol.com websites:
www.ou.edu/student/xa

www.romeXII.com

**The BSU, ISM-
International
Student Ministries
is going to be
having a
Christmas party
for International
Students** and we just

wanted to invite you to join us. It will be on Friday 6th of December at 6:30pm e-mail rick777ok@ou.edu for the location that is yet to be determined. We will all get and exchange a white elephant gift which means a gift that can be used or is kind of useless. For example, I could get someone one old shoe or something funny like that, (this is my understanding of the kind of gift hehehe) the gift does not have to be expensive or something someone bought you. It could be something from your room that would be funny so we would all get to exchange gifts when we come to the party. Please, bring your friends. Well, if you have more questions in general or about the gift or you need a ride on that friday please feel free to e-mail rick777ok@ou.edu for the contact information.



“The Gospel according to Moses.”

Want to learn how the book of Exodus is a shadow of the Messiah and things to come? From studying the Book of Exodus, you will receive a clearer understanding of the New Testament. Understand the book of Revelations through studying Exodus and Jewish Traditions.

***Jacob's Ladder
Bible Study meets
on Thursday
nights at Christ on
Campus from 7:30
to 8:30.***

824 Elm Ave.



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It Rocked

BY KIM PERKINS &
RICK THOMAS.

We were blessed with the opportunity on November 17th to attend the Come Together and Worship tour. The concert held at the Ford Center featured Third Day, Michael W. Smith, and speaker Max Lucado. I've seen Third Day in concert before and this performance was great as always. They began with their exciting and



loud songs and the fans didn't hesitate to sing along. Then they ended it off with the beautiful praise songs that they do with amazing passion. The only let down of the Third Day performance was their very short set but I guess that is to be expected with the other great acts to follow. Max Lucado, a very



well known Christian author, then took the stage to share his message of inspiration. Next was an intermission that allowed us to have

our first opportunity to check out the back stage activities. As we were eating our dinner, Mac Powell came in to grab a bite to eat. We were very excited to have this opportunity to meet the lead singer of Third Day. We introduced ourselves and snapped a picture with him. He seemed to be a very laid back guy.

We then headed back to the concert where Michael W. Smith had already started playing. I had a l w a y s thought in the past that Smith was only entertaining for the 30 something M a x Lucado and Ty of Third

crowd but he proved me wrong. He didn't jump around on stage or play any loud drums but he is amazingly talented at the piano. Most of his songs were well known praise songs that the crowd passionately sang along with. I think my favorite part of the

concert was when Michael W. Smith recited Psalms 139 as if he was David speaking to God

with all his heart. The night then ended as Lucado and Third Day joined Smith on the stage. The crowd was very satisfied with these three hours of entertainment a n d worship. A f t e r t h e concert, w e h e a d e d b a c k stage to see if we c o u l d m e e t a n y more of the band members. We g o t t h e chance to take a picture w i t h M a x Lucado and Ty of Third Day. It was a great night for Christians to come together and see some great talent and experience the presence of the Lord.

One of the concert's sponsors was Compassion International. It is an awesome missionary program that allows one to sponsor a child with a low monthly pledge that provides food, clothing, medicine, and schooling. Many Christian artist have children that they sponsor themselves. Michael W. Smith spoke of one of his trips and some children's lives that has been



able to touch. We will have another article with more details about Compassion International in the future. Michael W. Smith led the praise and worship for some Billy Graham conferences in the past. He spoke of how a girl had been healed of blindness at one of the events and that it

was later reported to him by the Billy Graham Association. Jehovah Rapha is one of the names attributed to God in the Bible. Praise God that He never changes. He still the Healer of His people.

EVEN



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The First Thanksgiving

TRADITION

By Kristine Vick

CBN News Reporter

CBN.com — In 1619, two years before the colonists arrived in Massachusetts, a band of English settlers landed in Virginia, at what is now known as the Berkeley plantation. History says the travelers immediately fell to their knees to thank God for their safe arrival. Here is a closer look at the role these settlers had in shaping what we know today as Thanksgiving.

Most people think of the Pilgrims on Thanksgiving Day: 1622, the Mayflower, Squanto and his tribe sharing a feast with the Puritans at Plymouth Rock. But the children at Stonebridge School in Virginia present a different picture. With colonial hats and feathered headbands, these children re-enact what it must have been like back in the 1600s, marking the events surrounding the first Thanksgiving at a very different time and place.



It all began on the shores of Cape Henry in Virginia. In 1607, the first English colonists arrived: 105 English men and boys, and 39 sailors, among them the Reverend Robert Hunt. He was the first minister in America. According to

Jamestown site historian, Dianne Stallings, he was instrumental in establishing the protestant faith in the new world. Following a mandate from the king of England, Hunt pitched a cross and led the men in prayer on the beaches of Cape Henry. “Reverend Hunt would have had the Book of Common Prayer as well as the Bible,” says Stallings. “And this would be a general prayer of thanksgiving that would have been read at that period of time.” Titled simply, the “General Thanksgiving”, this prayer, in one of its various versions, reads as follows:

“Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.” For two weeks the men combed the shores of the James River, scouting out the perfect place for their new settlement. Finally they decided on Jamestown. And according to Stallings, the settlers came for three reasons: God, glory, and gold. “England was very concerned that the protestant faith be established in the new world, and, of course, they were dedicated to the fact that they wanted to Christianize the Indians,” she says. Perhaps the

most famous Indian at the settlement was Pocahontas. Through her the Powhatan Indians and the colonists made peace. She would bring the colonists food, and some historical accounts say she even saved Captain John Smith’s life from her own people. Eventually, Pocahontas was held hostage



by the colonists. It was then that she converted to Christianity and married one of the Jamestown leaders, John Rolfe. She was

baptized into the Christian name, Rebecca. Through Pocahontas, the settlers saw their goal of spreading the protestant faith begin to come to fruition. Years later she returned to England with her husband. Sadly, at just 22 years old, she died. It was two years after Pocahontas’ death that another group of English colonists landed in Virginia. After ten weeks at sea, they finally landed here at the Berkeley Plantation. Virginia Historians claim that this is where the real first Thanksgiving took place. The plantation sits just a few miles from the original Jamestown settlement. “The Virginia Company had directives given to the settlers and the directives were that upon landing, they were to give thanks and every year

thereafter make it an annual celebration in thanks to the Lord for a safe passage,” says Barbara Awad, president of the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival.

This was about seventeen months before the pilgrims landed in Plymouth. And while the Pilgrims celebrated with a feast, much like the traditional meal Americans eat on Thanksgiving, the settlers at Berkeley Plantation had a meager meal. “It wasn’t quite the abundant festival, the cornucopia that we usually see on Thanksgiving,” says Awad. Historians say their feast included bacon, peas, cornmeal cakes, and cinnamon water. But regardless of the menu, to these settlers, the first Thanksgiving was much more than turkey and pumpkin pie. It was all about prayer.

Local Events



Avalon Joy Christmas Tour & special guest, Shaun

Groves December 12, 2002 - 7:00 PM 301 NE 27th St.

Moore, OK 73160 phone: 405-794-6166 First Baptist Church • Moore, OK US TICKET PRICES Gen Adm : \$ 10.00 For more info call 937-642-7912. TICKET PURCHASE INFORMATION Phone Sales: iTICKETS.COM 1(800)965-9324

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