



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Yes, more and more we see the decorations going up and we hear the Christmas music, and it is exciting. And God has given us a blast of winter weather for our tree lightings to put us in the mood. I even understand that parts of North Alabama could see some snow tonight and in the morning. But as wonderful as all of that may be, nothing is better than starting your day with a vision of the Babe born in Bethlehem, the Savior of the world coming to Earth to save us from our sin. I love Christmas and all that it stands for. Sonya and I watched a Christmas movie last night that reminded me that it isn't about the nativity scenes, the lights, the trees, or even the way we say "Merry Christmas!" It's all about the Greatest Gift given by the Greatest Giver to those with the**

**greatest need. In order to remind us of the beauty of this gift, starting tomorrow night at 8 p.m., I will begin reading the book of Luke, one chapter a night, on Facebook Live. Make plans to watch together and share the video so that we might show the world the true meaning of Christmas as a church family.**

**We had a great day at church yesterday with Hunter and Christina sharing with us about the treasure that is within us, and how God wants to use that treasure to reach a lost and hurting world. The truth is that you and I may never go to some of the places that others do, but all of us can share the hope that is within us with those around us. Let's remember to pray for all of our friends who leave their homes and travel to other parts of the world to do this. And let's pray about how we can support them.**

**I told you yesterday that I would be sharing some of the ways your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will be used to support our**

**almost 4,000 International Missionaries. First, it takes \$5,000 just to prepare a missionary family for their journey. That includes vaccinations and intensive training to give them the best start possible. One year of international school for their children can cost up to \$7,500. And security training for one missionary is almost \$6,000. That's why we give so generously to Lottie because we want to be sure that OUR missionaries have everything they need to go for us. Yes, they go for God first, but they are also going for us – helping us to fulfill the Great Commission. So during the month of December, pray for our missionaries and also ask God how much you should contribute to our Lottie Moon offering. The best part about this offering is that 100% of your gift goes directly to support our missionaries. Not one penny is used for administrative purposes! No other “charity” that you support can say that.**

**There is another reason that yesterday was a great day. Karoline Pitchford made her profession**

**of faith public during the invitation. If you weren't there, you probably missed the joy that just bubbled out of this precious child. I don't think that I will ever forget her response to my question: Karoline, do you know where you will go when you die? She raised both arms and yelled with obvious joy, "Heaven!" You might want to watch the video and see it for yourself. We will be baptizing Karoline this coming Sunday at our 10:30 service. I'm going to throw this invitation out there to some of you who have made professions of faith in the past. You may feel the call of the Holy Spirit telling you that's what you need to do, too. If that is the case, give me a call this week, and let's talk about you participating in this powerful ordinance as well.**

**Don't forget that at the end of both worship services this Sunday we will have a very brief special called business meeting to vote on our proposed 2021 budget and our new deacons. We will let you know the names of the nominated men prior to Sunday.**

**Please continue to pray for all of our people who are hurting physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Let's be the hands and feet of our Lord this Christmas season.**

**With great love and giving of thanks for each of you,  
Bro. Ben**