



Rick Barton Ministries

December 2023

"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Mt 2:10-11).

As I began to write this, I had to pause and pray. "Lord, don't let me be in 'writer's mode', but let me worship you as I write." The Christmas narratives in Matthew and Luke should cause all of us to push the "pause" button on the business of the season and adore Him. Luke tells us that the King of Kings appeared first to a group of poor working-class shepherds on a hillside doing their job. That should encourage us to worship, because none of us are too poor or spiritually unclean to come and adore. Jesus came for us!

Matthew, the redeemed tax collector, tells us that some very wealthy, wise men, set aside all their affairs and travelled for up to two years to seek out and worship the baby in a manger. That should cause us to worship because no one is too rich, wise, or of the "wrong" race to come and adore Him. Nothing in this world is more important than finding the one who left heaven to find us!

But what did they do when they found Him? The shepherds, in awe mixed with excitement, told everyone they could about Jesus. They didn't have money, but they had mouths! Then they went back to work, glorifying and praising God, as changed men! The wise men, the wealthy, educated men of science, fell on their faces and worshipped Jesus. Then they gave Him the best they had. Each gift had a special significance. Gold, because He is a king, frankincense-an incense used in worship, since He is God, and myrrh-a burial spice, since He would die for our sins!

What about you and me? Are we willing to lay aside everything we have, to seek and find Jesus in a fresh way this Christmas? He left heaven to seek us, will we seek Him?

November Happenings: November was full of praises as we continued teaching our 5 Minute Theologian class, packed 106 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, loaded another van of clothes to be delivered to a church on a Navajo reservation, held a Celebration of Life, made multiple visits to the hospital and nursing home, and more. Your prayers truly sustain us!

Upcoming: Lord willing, we will host a "Thank You Lunch" in Loveland CO for friends and supporters (12/1), speak at Livermore CO Community Church (12/3), sing at the assisted living, nursing home and hospital (12/16), and hold weekly services at the top of Painter Boy lift at Crested Butte.

First Responder New Testaments and Devotionals: Ann Babb, the 93-year-old widow of a Dallas Fire Chief, called and asked for more Fire/EMS New Testaments and Devotionals. Her Christian Care facility will hand these out as they honor their local fire department. Chaplain Eddie in Maine and Chaplain Wayne in Louisiana requested cases. Chaplains in North Carolina and Michigan have sent in requests! A Fire Marshal in Wyoming reports that as he has given them out to other fire marshals, they are requesting more. A chaplain to "outlaw" motorcycle gangs in CA requested 100 copies of the motorcycle New Testament to

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distribute. Your support to the Bible fund allows us to send these out without charge to the chaplains They say a huge, “Thank You”!

Missionary Gifts: As you know, we sent out extra support checks in November to 22 missionaries, pastors of small churches, and widows of Christian workers. The responses from these workers have been a blessing. One recent missionary widow reported it helped with an unexpected housing expense, a small-town pastor was encouraged that they weren’t forgotten, a long-term missionary said it would be used for a trip on their anniversary, another that it would help them do ministry overseas. You are each a part of these blessings, Thank You!

My Knees-Melva’s Blood Clots: My knees are getting stronger, but slowly. I have a “wee” tendency to overdo it and I pay the price. Melva had another scan on the blood clots in her lungs, waiting for the results. Thank you for your continued prayers!

Finances: As we close out 2023, we are amazed at God’s grace shown through each of you. We were able to give away hundreds of 1st Responder, Cowboy, and Motorcycle New Testaments and Devotionals, give more support to missionaries than ever, give more assistance to families and even churches in need than before, and share the gospel through preaching, funerals, and radio spots with many residents in our valley. Your faithful prayers and support have brought much glory to our God! (2 Corinthians 9:12-14)

“Going Up or Going Down”: Last Wednesday I received a phone call requesting I visit a 97-year-old woman in the hospital. Even though this very popular woman was a regular church attender, she realized that her time was drawing near and asked her son, “When I die, am I going up or down”? As I entered her room, she asked me the same question. I shared God’s wonderful plan and assurance of salvation from God’s word (John 3:16, John 14:1-6, 1 John 5:11-13). She prayed out loud a prayer of repentance and faith. Her son said she became peaceful after that. The next two days Melva and I visited her, but she was heavily sedated and couldn’t respond. Tuesday, I conducted her “Celebration of Life” and was able to offer the same promise and assurance to those in attendance and others watching online. What a wonderful God we serve!

Prayer Requests: That the anointing of the Holy Spirit be upon us as we share. For Melva’s blood clots to completely dissolve and my knees to fully recover. For the Lord to be glorified in and through us!

May you have a wonderful celebration of our Lord’s 1st Coming!!! Rick and Melva

Rick + Melva



The Shoebox Team



Packing Shoeboxes for
Operation Christmas Child



Melva Singing in the Hospital

Merry Christmas!