



"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps 119:130).

# The Lighthouse BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of the  
**LIGHTHOUSE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**2015:  
The Year of  
Fruitbearing**

**John 15:16**  
"...I have chosen you, and ordained you...go and bring forth fruit..."

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## 2015, THE YEAR OF FRUITBEARING, LEAVES BEHIND NUMBERLESS BLESSINGS FROM THE GRACIOUS HAND OF GOD

"...ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof" (Josh 23:14).

### A Word from the PASTOR



"For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (2 Cor 1:20).

The first text above was declared by Joshua before the children of Israel before he died at 110 years old. As he declared these words, he rehearsed before God's people how that the Lord indeed was true to His promise and that "not only thing hath failed" of what He had promised them.

The second text was written by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian church in this epistle, Paul discusses how the words that he preaches are based on the truthfulness of God, emphasizing that as God is true, so are their word.

The year 2015 which passes in a few days are filled with the truthfulness of God's promises for His people. This year will leave behind great testimonies of blessings from the gracious hand of God; testimonies that are known to us all as Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church.

Everyone of us will remember that in the beginning of this year, we were confronted with the

COUNTDOWN  
to the  
40th ANNIVERSARY  
and  
SACRIFICIAL  
CELEBRATION  
of the  
LIGHTHOUSE BBC

**13 WEEKS**

possibility of losing the extended property. But instead, the Lord worked so we may keep the same and even more, He more than doubled our area!

This 2015 passes in a few days and will leave behind something that we will never forget. Praise God for His Grace and Faithfulness!



Pastor Reuben, with his back towards the camera, leads the Boodle Fight as a way to treat members of the Lighthouse BBC at the new Lighthouse Events Place. The new facility continues to prove its worth as a number of events of different nature are held during this month.

### Fourth Quarter Focus : Bearing the Fruits of Righteousness

"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" Phil 1:11).

*"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON (Christmas Lesson)

**TITLE : THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**  
**Text : Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7**

## INTRODUCTION

Mary, for the first three months following her visit by the angel Gabriel stayed with her cousin, Elisabeth (Luke 1:36). When she returned to Nazareth, and Joseph learned of her condition, it must have filled him with deep thoughts. Being a good man, however, he disposed to protect Mary's name from what he supposed would be a public disgrace or worse.

About Joseph: Very little is told of Joseph. He went with Mary to Bethlehem and was with her when Jesus was born (Luke 2:4, 16). He was with Mary when Jesus was presented in the Temple (Luke 2:33). He conducted their flight to Egypt and the return to Nazareth (Matt.2:13, 19-23). And took Jesus up to Jerusalem at the age of 12 (Luke 2:43, 51). The only further reference to him is that he was a carpenter and the head of a family of at least seven children (Matt.13:55, 56). He must have died before Jesus' crucifixion the reason Jesus committed the care of Mary to John (John 19:26-27).

About Mary: After the birth of Jesus and his visit to Jerusalem at the age of 12, very little is said of Mary. According to Matt.13:55-56, she was the mother of at least 6 children besides Jesus. At her suggestion, Jesus turned water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11). Later, she is mentioned a trying to get him in the crowd (Matt 12:46; Mark 3:31; Luke 8:19). She was present at the crucifixion and was committed by Jesus to the care of John (John 19:25-27). There is no record of Jesus appearing to her after His resurrection, though He did appear to Mary Magdalene. The last mention of Mary is in Acts 1:14 as being with the disciples in prayer. Mary's having other children is substantiated by the statement in Luke 2:7, "And she brought forth her firstborn son..." Why the term "firstborn" if there were no others?

### A) The Revelation to Joseph

#### 1) Joseph's Distress

Upon learning of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph, "being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily." This preacher is of the position that Joseph did not in any way, doubt whether Mary was unfaithful. It would have been such that, along with the news that Mary was with child, care was taken that he was told of the announcement by the angel. His fear was not in regard to Mary's

unfaithfulness but how the public would take such a circumstance. His being "just" would have brought him much offense as to bring Mary publicly before the Jewish court and not to "put her away privily." But he "feared" to take her as his wife realizing that God was using Mary to bring His Son to the flesh.

This preacher then believes that this is the premise whereupon Joseph's distress was based and not like other Bible commentators who would infer that he doubted Mary's faithfulness.

#### 2) Joseph's Dream

The very night that he was thinking about all these things, the angel Gabriel came and brought to him an assurance through a dream. Following the revelation, Joseph took Mary to be his wife but "knew her not till she had brought forth" the Saviour.

### B) The Birth of Jesus

#### 1) The Decree by Caesar (Luke 2:1-7)

Joseph and Mary are brought to Jerusalem from Nazareth because of a Roman decree which commanded each Hebrew citizen to be counted from the place where he or she was born. Joseph, "because he was of the house and lineage of David" had to be in Bethlehem. The journey to Bethlehem from Nazareth is 70 miles.

Note: Matt.1:24 indicates that Joseph finally took Mary to be his wife. Luke, however, indicates that when they travelled to Bethlehem, Mary is still described to be "his espoused wife" (Luke 2:5). As to when Joseph actually took Mary to wife is not the issue here. Mary's virgin birth is.

#### 2) The Delivery by Mary

While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to the Saviour and "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."



Above pictures show the different presentation held last Sunday night as the Lighthouse BBC holds the Christmas Fellowship Service. From top: the Lighthouse Kids Club doing their Christmas drama, the combined SINAG-YLS number, the Banaag Musical play by the Lighthouse BBC Pasig, and the Lighthouse Chamber Orchestra. Praise God indeed for the Ministry of Exhortation!

*"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)*