

# FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

### UPDATE



## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? *THE INCARNATION*

As we begin preparations for another Christmas season, the doctrine of the Incarnation will no doubt, once again, take center-stage in our thinking and rejoicing. It won't be long before we find ourselves singing: *"Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb; Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the incarnate Deity; Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel."* While Jews and Muslims find it a scandalous offense to imagine a holy and righteous God taking on flesh and becoming a man, Christians joyfully embrace this divine mystery as an essential of our faith. Article 4-1 of the Bible Fellowship Church *Articles of Faith* describes the Incarnation this way:

*"Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Word, the eternal and true God who is of one substance and equal with the Father. He took on Himself man's nature, with all of its essential properties except sin: Being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, He embodied two perfect and distinct natures in one person. He is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man."*

Through the Incarnation, the Eternal Son of God added true humanity to his true divinity. In perhaps the greatest miracle of all, Jesus willingly subjected himself to the limits of space, time, and matter; the Sovereign, free, and holy God making himself of no reputation by being born into the world as a baby. As he grew and ministered upon the earth, Jesus fully possessed all the attributes of his divine nature (i.e. in his humanity he never ceased to be fully God), yet he chose to obey God the Father by limiting the independent use of those attributes in order to fulfill His eternal plan of redemption. As the Apostle Paul summarizes: Jesus, *"though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"* (Philippians 2:6-8). And this, of course, is why the doctrine of the Incarnation is so precious to us as Believers. If the Son of God had not taken on flesh, He would not have been able to represent us before the Father as our *"merciful and faithful high priest,"* and yet if the man, Jesus of Nazareth, was not also fully God, He would not have been able to *"make propitiation for the sins"* of his people (Hebrews 2:17). It was only as the

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

Saturday 12/1:

Family Movie Night,  
Stables – 5pm

Sunday 12/2:

Congregational Q&A  
Meeting – 12:15pm

Sunday 12/9:

Annual Cong.  
Meeting – 6pm

Tuesday 12/11:

Women's Gathering,  
Stables – 7pm

Friday 12/14:

Youth Operation  
Christmas Blessing

Wednesday 12/19:

Youth Ugly Christmas  
Sweater Party – 7pm

Sunday 12/23:

Traditional Christmas  
Service, FLC – 9am

Family Christmas

Service, ST – 10:15am

Monday 12/24:

Christmas Eve  
Service – 7pm

Wednesday 12/26:

Awana & Strive  
Cancelled

incarnated, sinless, God-man that Jesus was sufficient to be the one mediator between our holy, Creator God and sinful mankind (1 Timothy 2:5). In this way, full atonement for our sin hinges on the Incarnation of Christ.

This Christmas, may we marvel afresh and anew at the wonder of the Incarnation. Taking on flesh was the first step in Christ's humiliation, a humiliation that led him all the way to the cross where he bore our sin. Now as always, may our hearts worship the God-man: *"Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory given! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"*

-Pastor Keith Long

## EVENTS AT FAITH

### MEN'S MINISTRY PAINTBALL EVENT



This fall "The Men of Faith", FBFC Men's Ministry put the "fellowship" in Faith Bible Fellowship Church, with a morning of fun, food, and male bonding. We had 32 men and youth from FBFC participate in our first ever Men's Ministry Paintball event held at Ambush Paintball Adventure Park. The air was crisp, the wind was brisk, the competition

was stiff, but the fun was endless. We divided into two teams, the blue and orange. We played five games in some amazing settings, ranging from trenches to guerrilla warfare theaters. The blue team won four games and the orange team won one, but everyone was victorious because we all had an amazing time.

Thanks to everyone who came out to make this event an amazing success. God willing, we will make this an annual activity. So, if you missed out, don't worry, we will be planning another event as soon as it warms up. Our goal is to promote deeper relationships and friendships between men in our church. So, if you want to join us for our next event, or just want stay up to date about Men's Ministry news and happenings, consider joining our Facebook page at the address below. We hope to see you there next time. God bless. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/249435409030134/>



#### The Center Update

The Center continues to meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the residents in the 6th Ward of Lancaster City. ESL classes continue to draw people; as well as our monthly community closet clothing give-away. The Center will be hosting our annual Christmas Dinner for the surrounding neighborhood. Please pray that hearts will be open to hear the true meaning of Christmas about Jesus.