

Things to Know



Musings from the Word

John Grys, President

As our office closes up for the Christmas and New Year's season, this will be my last communication for 2022. As you can see, there is no DYK or notes from the field because, for this final communication for 2022 and related to this season of the year, there can be no distractions about the centrality of the baby, Jesus. Let this last communication be a reminder that from the beginning of the year to the end, from the beginning of life to the end, indeed, the Alpha and Omega is truly about Jesus. Nothing. Else. And here is my reflection regarding this amazing movement of God coming in the form of a newborn: if smelly diapers can become a part of His coming, is there any place on this spinning blue ball (the planet) where God cannot show up? There is a part of this process of entering into our mess that seems just so natural. Mary with child. Carrying a child for all those months. Visiting relatives while with child. Not knowing the future. Anticipation. And in this coming, as Laura Lucio (one of our pastoral spouses) pointed out in a recent post, there is not just joy but sorrow (the death of children brought about by the purge of Herod). There is just so much stuff going on, both normal and abnormal, and yet, in and through it all...the solution to human suffering would come about through the pain of childbirth. I am reminded that the circumstances within which the activity of God occurs are seldom clean, seldom non-chaotic, seldom without difficulty. And yet, this does not dissuade our Lord, it does not cause Him to walk away. He is constant. He is present. He is relentless. I am learning each day to count on His relentless nature. For there is nothing as sustainable as the Presence of Jesus—especially in the midst of human chaos. And it is in that midst where we find this abiding peace. And in that abiding peace, we can embrace the words of my favorite Christmas song: "Truly he taught us to love one another/His law is Love and His gospel is Peace; Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother/And in His name all oppression shall cease." My prayer for us is that we can become the kinds of people who reveal this God regardless of our circumstances, regardless of our weakness, regardless of our chaotic world. And may the peace of that Child satisfy our soul!

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