

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jerry Cummings, Pastor of Living Hope Fellowship in Norton

Some time ago I was listening as the Christmas carol, "O Christmas Tree" was being played. I thought about how it is a beautiful song, although I wondered about singing to a tree. Although, I know that the song is sung to the traditionally decorated tree we use to celebrate, I thought of another tree which was made possible because of the events of the first Christmas. This new baby born in Bethlehem was given the name Jesus, which means Savior. So at His birth, His name was pointing toward a "tree" on which He would someday die as the Savior of the world.

I love the beauty of a Christmas tree with its many colored lights and decorations. But, also for the eyes of the heart of the redeemed, is seen a multifaceted beauty in the "tree" that Jesus died on.

When I look at the cross I see the rich love of our heavenly Father as He gave His only son as a sin

offering for us. I also see the beauty of the Son of God as He, of His own free will, became that sacrifice for sin. I see the beauty of the curse which came on the whole world when Adam

sinned, being broken. Also on this tree is the light of how death was defeated at the moment Jesus died. It is also wonderful to think of how Satan, the enemy

of God and mankind was humiliated and defeated by the cross.

And these are only the beginning. Just think of how sins are forgiven and forgotten by God because of this cross; of how the sinner is cleansed inside and out from the stain of sin; of how sin's power is defeated in the life of the believer; the wonder of a new life inside us which is eternal, the guilty soul being declared "not guilty"; the healing provided for soul and body; God and Man being reconciled as friends again; and people being purchased for God from sin, as his treasured possession.

All these wonders are found in the tree which was the cross on which Jesus died. So as we sit this Christmas season (as I like to do) and gaze at the beauty of the Christmas tree, let's remember the other Christmas tree, the beautiful tree, seen only by the eyes of the redeemed heart.



What is home? Home is the place where we live, a place of rest at the end of the day. It is a blend of mortar and memories, a roof over your head, the place where you were raised or feel you belong. It may be a mansion on a hill or a cramped apartment in the city... the house your father built or the builder's latest model... but only you and your family call it home. Home is a part of you.

Thousands of years ago, the psalmists sang praises of the dwelling place of the Lord Almighty. King David realized that through his life and beyond, being close to God gave him a sense of home. With the Lord as his shepherd, he believed that goodness and love would follow him and he would "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6).

We can feel close to God when we visit His sanctuary, our house of worship. It's a place where we belong, another place we can call home. Take refuge with God in His house.

Sunday Micah 5.2-9	Monday Luke 1.1-25	Tuesday Luke 1.26-56	Wednesday Luke 1.57-80	Thursday Isaiah 7.1-25	Friday Isaiah 9.1-7	Saturday Matthew 1.1-17
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Prepare kit for survival

By DAVID FLOYD
Warning Coordination Meteorologist

With the holiday travel season upon us, now is a good time to put some thought into preparing a **Winter Weather Car Survival Kit**. It just might come in handy should you or your family become stranded during a winter storm.

The first item to set aside for your winter weather car survival kit is a couple old blankets to help keep you warm if your vehicle gets stuck in a snow drift. You might also consider placing a stocking cap and extra set of gloves in your kit, which you will appreciate if you need to change a tire when the outside temperature is 15 degrees!

Another good item is a flashlight, and one or two extra sets of fresh batteries. If you've ever tried to change a tire after dark you'll know how valuable this item is. A flashlight will also come in handy if you need to signal someone for help. For a few extra dollars, consider a flashlight that doesn't require batteries, one that you shake for 30 seconds to get light.

Now add a bright red or orange cloth to use as a distress flag. This can be an old red T-shirt, a used shop rag, or some fabric you have in storage. During a winter storm when visibility is poor, a bright red shirt or rag tied to your car's antenna will alert law enforcement that you need assistance.

Okay, it's time to add a snow shovel to your kit. Chances are a shovel you use for gardening won't really be needed until spring and can serve you well in the trunk of your car in winter. A shovel

can make the difference between remaining stranded for hours, or being able to continue on a journey. Some department stores even carry shovels where the handle can be collapsed to make for easier storage.

Something else to consider is something to use for traction, such as sand or cat litter. I carry a couple one gallon milk cartons filled with sand from my daughter's sandbox. Cat litter also works great. Place sand or litter under the wheels and the additional friction may be enough to help free your vehicle.

Now complete your kit by adding a small amount of non-perishable food in the event you become stranded for any length of time. Gather some food items which will not spoil such as granola bars, candy bars or beef jerky. Even small cans of fruit work well if you remember to get cans which have a pull top.

Another item to pack is water. Just fill any type of jug or bottle with tap water. Another option is to pack a mug and simply collect snow for drinking water, but be careful if you go this route because the water from melted snow will be very cold and could actually lower your body temperature a bit.

So there you have it...your Winter Weather Car Survival Kit. Most of these items can be placed in a large plastic bucket or a duffel bag. Remember the old saying about an ounce of prevention...

Be safe this winter travel season, and remember to check the latest weather forecasts and road conditions before venturing out this winter at www.weather.gov/goodland.

State holds design contest

Ever notice how unique some states' license plates are? If you think you could create a new design for Kansas' personalized license plates you should get your entry in by Dec. 31.

The competition is open to all Kansas citizens. A panel of judges from across the state will narrow the submissions to a list of three finalists by the middle of January.

A sample plate for each of the finalists will be posted on the www.kstrevenue.org website and Kansas citizens will be invited to vote for

their favorite plate from Feb. 1 to Feb. 28. The website also contains a detailed listing of the specifications. The winning design will be announced in March.

Entries must be postmarked by Dec. 31. Mail entries to: Bonnie Brown, Director of Vehicles Office, Kansas Department of Revenue, 915 SW Harrison, Room 162 S, Topeka, Kan. 66626.

The new personalized license plate is scheduled for production in 2010 and will replace the current plate featuring a buffalo.

Cross Roads

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ON GRASPING THE HEART OF GOD'S LOVE

There is so much that comes at us especially this time of the year. Before we know it Christmas day is here and it seems that we just did not get prepared to celebrate it as we had hoped. The world's way of celebrating Christmas sometimes has a way of keeping us from enjoying the Lord Jesus' birthday in spirit and truth.

If you want to grasp true joy during the Christmas season it is imperative that you catch the significance in how God showed love by giving Christ. God gave His Son and Christ came willingly—true expressions of sacrificial love.

To help you grasp this love, Pastor Terry Laughlin has put together a message titled:

CHRISTMAS LOVE THE LOVE OF GOD, CHRIST GIVEN

Conditions God Sent His Son Into

Expression of True Love

Giving Us His One and Only Son

This message is in complete transcript (Microsoft® Word™) and spoken (MP3) formats. Go to our website and find the button "Messages" and go to the heading "Christmas" and look for the series "The Cast of Christmas." If you are not comfortable with websites just contact us and we will get this material to you FREE. Make plans to read this powerful teaching from God's Word. Praying the Lord's best for you.

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin

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