



# Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church  
1751 Old Natchez Trace  
Franklin, TN 37069

[www.ForestHomeChurch.org](http://www.ForestHomeChurch.org)

December 18th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: [newsletter@foresthomechurch.org](mailto:newsletter@foresthomechurch.org)



## Take The Moses Survey

After forty years with the children of Israel in the wilderness, Moses surveyed the promised land from far atop Mt. Nebo. But that is not the only survey Moses took. The book of Deuteronomy records three crucial addresses Moses gave to prepare the children of Israel to enter the promised land. Moses' first speech was a survey of looking back over the years and marking what Israel had learned about themselves, and most importantly, what they had learned about the glorious Lord who had delivered them from Egypt. Certainly the people of Israel were excited to move ahead and enter the land, but Moses directed the people first and foremost to look back. He asked them to survey and remember what the Lord had done to make them who they were.

As a new year soon approaches I hope there is time for each of us to look back over what the Lord has been showing us this past year. I call this taking the Moses Survey. This is a wonderful exercise in faith that honors the Lord, who works through time to transform us into the image of His Son.

One way to start the Moses Survey is to prayerfully answer one or more of the following questions:

- 1) What has the Lord taught you this past year?
- 2) Have you learned anything that has significantly enhanced your walk with the Lord?
- 3) When you think of all the various times together, from singing to praying to messages from John and me, with many teaching the Word in classes, comments, or small groups, what ways have your mind or heart changed for the better?
- 4) What way(s) have your **activities** changed this past year to the Lord's glory?
- 5) How do you feel closer to the Lord than this time last year?
- 6) What aspect of God's character has become more real to you this year?
- 7) In what way(s) have you become a more Christ-like servant this past year?
- 8) Has this year had a theme verse, theme song, or theme virtue for you?
- 9) In what way have you sensed a stirring in spiritual matters this past year?

Moving ahead can be good in the Lord's timing. But don't proceed without the compass of the Lord's dealings with you in hand. This is done by surveying His ways with us, this past year in particular. LH



## PRAYER & PRAISE

- Remember our loved ones in Kenya— Jac Agak (especially healing), Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Lord Thank You for Immanuel Jesus—God with Us & For Us
- Grant us grace to see your hand in our lives this past year
- We ask for travel mercies on many traveling this season
- Pray the Lord to minister strongly through works of the body like proclamation of the Word thru Teaching, Preaching, or Singing; Liz & Gil for Winyo; Frank & Jimmy's Prison work; Karen, Tim & Ann's Counseling; Adam's attention to Youth; Tommy's Next Right Step; Maintaining the building; Cooking for Wednesday fellowship; Outreach to Muslims in our town; Website; the Elders as Shepherds
- Bless Matthew Christy & other loved ones to hope in Jesus
- Grant us vision for what You are doing this coming year that we may join in
- We are grateful for provision and care over this past year
- Bless our youth and college with Your Light over Christmas
- Prince of Peace may Your peace increase throughout the earth
- May Love-Joy-Peace mark our hearts as we hope in Your Presence



## Things Jesus Calls His in John

As I am doing the Moses Survey, I realize one thing that has deepened my walk is what I learned from attending lectures on the Gospel of John by Richard Bauckham this past February. Bauckham is a professor of the New Testament whose work on John over the last 30 years is forging a new scholarly consensus that the gospel of John is not only deeply theological, but also a highly insightful historical portrait of our Lord. As such, I am glad to survey Jesus' words in John for what might be unique insights to Christ's character.

One way Jesus speaks in John is mentioning things that are His. What a person considers his own tells a lot about that person, and it is no less with Jesus. Speaking of something as "mine" often means more than possession—it can express importance and a defining relationship. More than anything else, Jesus is heard throughout his ministry saying, "My Father." Here are some of the "My" sayings of the Lord.

If you continue in My **word**, then you are truly My **disciples** (8:31)  
 He who eats My **flesh** and drinks My **blood** abides in Me, and I in him. (6:56)  
 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My **day**, and he saw it and was glad.  
 Whatever you ask in My **name**, that will I do (14:13)  
 If you love Me, you will keep My **commandments** (14:15)  
 He who hates Me hates My **Father** also (15:23)  
 I know My **own** and My **own** know Me (10:14)  
 My **judgment** is true (8:16)  
 I lay down My **life** for the sheep. (10:15)  
 I do not speak on My own **initiative**; I lay down My **life** on My own **initiative** (10:18; 12:49)  
 By this all will know that you are My **disciples**, if you have love for one another. (13:35)  
 You are My **friends** if you do what I command you. (15:14)  
 Father I desire . . . that they may see My **glory** which You have given Me (17:24)  
 My **kingdom** is not of this world. (18:36)  
 Everyone who is of the truth hears My **voice**. (18:37)  
 Feed My **sheep**. (21:17)  
 Peace I leave with you; My **peace** I give to you; (14:27)  
 Abide in My **love**. If you keep My **commandments**, you will abide in My **love** (15:10)  
 These things I have spoken to you so that My **joy** may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. (15:11)

### Think Incarnation

There are many ways to appreciate the amazing cost and expression of love in the birth of Jesus as Immanuel (which means, "God with us"). So profound is the Lord's coming to live a full human life *from birth* that it means not just God in man but God as *Man*. This makes for many things. For instance, the temple of God was the place where God put His name, and the place where heaven and earth came together in space and time. With Immanuel Jesus, the meeting of heaven and earth and all the temple activities and benefits come home. He is the mercy seat, our covenant, the reconciling sacrifice and the blessing of God. In Him is the response of God to humans as well as the response of humans to God. This is the meaning of Christ as High Priest and as Mediator. Since taking on servant-hood in birth, He has been ministering the things of God to us humans and the things of us humans to God. As Immanuel, He is not only God with us, but also God FOR us.

Moreover, the oneness of Jesus with humanity in becoming a true man from birth means that Jesus' work is not simply instrumental, external, or a mere moral example; it is much deeper. As God with us, Immanuel Jesus shines forth as the face of God, while also illuminating what it is to be fully human. Jesus has forever changed humanity from the inside out. My neighbor in Jersey used to say to me, and I like it: "As one of us and one with us, he shared all our experiences, overcoming our disobedience through his obedience and sanctifying every stage of human life, and thereby vivified and restored our humanity to communion with God. He sanctified himself for our sakes that we might be sanctified in him." Think Incarnation, and thank God. LH



### 2011 Calendar

- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Annual FH Progressive Dinner
- DEC 25<sup>th</sup> – NO CLASS
- EACH MON+THURS 5:30-5:50PM@church, Intercessory prayer 4 anyone
- EACH TUES MORNING – 6:30am, mens bible study
- EACH WED – Dinner @ 5:45pm & Women's Bible Study @ 6:15pm

DATE	NURSERY (Infants-2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Dec 18	Lois McAlister	Dec	PROGRESSIVE Liz/Dawn Linda/Lois Lisa/Wendy Ocie/Shannon Pat/Karen
Dec 25	Mari Ann Farmer	Jan	
Jan 1	Pat Gil	Feb	
Jan 8	Sam Lamborn		
Jan 15	Linda Boyd		
Jan 22	Leah Hickerson		
		(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim Grim with questions.	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Announcement:**  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES  
 TODAY OR DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>.**

**Announcement:**  
**No Around the Word Groups  
 for December**

It's that time of year again! We are planning our Christmas progressive dinner for Wednesday evening, **December 21**. If anyone is interested in hosting please give me a call. We will probably be starting at 6:00p.m. More details to follow. Hope everyone can make it. -Linda

### BOOK CLUB

This month's book is *Death Comes To Pemberley* by P.D. James.

Date & Time: TBA

A boy was having difficulty living the Christian life. He went to his preacher, who told him to see a painting. The caretaker at the gallery led him to a large room where the painting adorned an entire wall.

The young man was repulsed at what he saw. It was a painting of Christ on the cross, but the perspective from which the artist painted it was off-balance. It looked grotesque.

The caretaker said, "Son, you need to get closer."

The young man came closer.

"Son, you need to get lower."

The young man got lower.

"No, closer and lower."

Before the young man knew what was happening, he was kneeling at the foot of the cross.

And when he looked up, he understood the entire painting.