

Last Sunday message.....

SHEPHERD'S CHRISTMAS

Where is your/our focus as we celebrate Christmas? Christmas is all about Christ. Heavenly announcement of Jesus' birth was given to Mary, Joseph and Shepherds. Announcement of the Names of Jesus were:

JESUS: means Yahweh saves or Yahweh is Salvation. This describes the future work of salvation.

SAVIOUR: one who saves. To save His people from sin, Satan's domain, fear, guilt, condemnation etc

CHRIST: (Gk Christos) meaning "Anointed" "Messiah" Christ anointed as Prophet, Priest, and King.

LORD: meaning Jesus is God. All authority, power is His and he rules over His people.

Can we honestly say that Jesus Christ is my Saviour, Lord, prophet, priest and King. What kind of picture do you have about Jesus? Is He small and far away or close and big? Slywn Hugh said, "We can have a stronger and clearer picture of Jesus. This is possible by meditating on the picture of Jesus presented in the Gospel and praying that Holy Spirit will make Jesus clearer to our minds and dearer to our heart".

SHEPHERDS CHRISTMAS: Why shepherds and only to shepherds?

The shepherds were poor, often considered as outcast, dishonest, unreliable etc but God chose to announce Jesus' birth to this unlikeliest group. God always has a heart for poor and broken people.

Shepherds response:

- they were afraid, terrified but still could make up their minds
- They choose to obey God immediately even if it meant to leave their sheep behind
- They hurried off with enthusiasm and eagerness to see Christ for themselves and found Him
- They spread the good news to people and everyone who heard were amazed
- They returned to their work praising God and glorifying God for all the things they had heard and seen.

Let us have Shepherds Christmas: Regather our senses, make up our minds, believe in the Gospel, respond faithfully to God leaving everything else behind, find/know Christ for ourselves with enthusiasm and willingness, witness Christ joyfully and keep praising and glorifying God for all the things God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

- Hekali Shikhu



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD
AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

December 31, 2017; Vol. XII, Issue 50

SUNDAY SERVICE

Leader	: Rosemary Jamir
Speaker	: Maa Imsong
Ushers	: Whuto Vinito & Lanvanthung Yanthan
Keyboard	: Karinaro Aonok
Flower	: Karen Peseyie

Call to Worship
Praise & Worship

Mass Prayer

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Offertory & Announcement

Hymn No. 311 : Great is Thy Faithfulness

Message

Hymn No. 312 : Count Your Blessings

Benediction



Sunday, December 24th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 45,330 Offering: ₹ 11,240 Christmas Feast:
12,000 Building Fund: ₹ 1,25,000
Thanksgiving: ₹ 2,000 Total: ₹ 1,96,110

citychurchkoh@gmail.com, Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

Contact: 0370-2242687/ 8131862333

VISION statement of the City Church:

City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.

AIMS of the City Church:

Worship: *To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.*

Fellowship: *To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.*

Evangelism: *To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God's great salvation.*

Discipleship: *To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.*

Mission: *To send out people in obedience to God's call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.*

31st December, 4 pm

Leader : Toshinaro Dvung
Speaker : Dr. Vinito Chishi
Music : Worship Team

Welcome

Praise & Worship

Scripture Reading : Vivo Kechü
Message
Hymn No.135 : I Know Whom I Have Believed

*Prayer time for
thanksgiving, confession and commitment
as 2017 ends and 2018 begins.*

1st January, 10 am

Leader : Dr. Sendimeren Aonok
Speaker : M. Odyuo
Keyboard : Atuna Shikhu
Ushers : Bongmainaro & Lemtila Alinger

Welcome

Praise & Worship

Scripture Reading : Limanula Jamir
Special Song : Limasanen Aonok
Hymn No.139 : The Solid Rock
Message
Hymn No.198 : All the Way My Saviour Leads Me
Benedictions

PRAYER

- Pray for renewed vision and commitment in our personal lives and as a church together as we prepare for a New Year 2018.
- Pray for the people of Nagaland and the leaders in different spheres, that the **fear of the Lord** may be upon us all, and that His Kingdom and His will may be done in Nagaland.
- **P r a y N C F**
H y d e r a b a d ,
Zajamo Odyuo
and family as they prepare for a new year of ministry ahead.
- Pray for **Drukpa Educational Society** Conference in January 8-10, 2018, in Jaigaon. Pray for Kungsang and family.

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

(Christmas Day Sermon at Dimori Cove.– Pastor Kedo Peseyie)

People think that Christians believe in miracles because we have been brainwashed by doctrine. That is not true. G.K. Chesterton says people believe in miracles not because they have a doctrine for it, but because they have evidence for it. On the other hand, people who do not believe in miracles do so because they have a doctrine to support them. They are often blinded by the doctrine and they are not open to consider even the evidence. I once believed that a person called Santa Claus brought gifts on Christmas Eve. But later I discarded that belief because it was not plausible. Likewise I would not have believed in Jesus Christ if I grew up and discovered that he is fake.

Consider the first century Jewish context when Jesus was born. Forget about Angels, not even one prophet from God had spoken for the last 400 years. And yet when the angels came with the good news, they believed. Why? Because they saw it with their own eyes, and experienced it with their senses.

The Two Worlds Come Together.

In the Christmas story, the supernatural world of angels and the natural world of humans intermingle and blend together with ease. Luke 1:26 – “In the 6th month, the angel Gabriel came to Galilee...” A messenger of God entering our time (6th month) and space (Galilee).

The majestic Angels and the ordinary dusty Shepherds blend together with ease. We see Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus – a baby with no particular shine or glow with the smell of a stable. But this baby is the greatest miracle that ever happened! He is the Third Person of the Trinity taking the form of a baby. God is with us.

Miracle #1: The giving of the Son of God—Jesus Christ—in the greatest miracle of all. Christmas is not the story of how a man became God, but how God became a man.

Karl Barth said that all human questions and problems are theological in nature, and the ultimate theological answer has been given in Jesus Christ. This is great news and reason for great joy! God’s ultimate answer to humanity has been given. It is a “*baby wrapped in swaddling clothes*”. But are we satisfied?

God has spoken. God has given. God has acted. But we want more! Some people live their whole lives expecting a great miracle to happen. But they would be more generous and happy if they learn to look back and realise that they can live because the greatest miracle has happened already.

Miracle #2: Because of Christmas, our ordinary mundane lives can have meaning, purpose and power. We live in the intermingling of the super-natural and the natural world. Imagine two circles intermingling and overlapping on the sides. We don’t have to look for extraordinary spiritual experiences. Because of Christmas, God is already with us and we have the power to live our ordinary lives with supernatural power.

Some people look for God in supernatural spiritual experiences. But God is found in the ordinary mundane activities of life giving meaning, power and purpose. This is the miracle of Christmas.

Miracle #3: The Miracle of Transformation. Greed, mediocrity, snobbishness and fear are major problems in Nagaland. But the incarnation addresses them. Look at the *generosity*, the *excellence*, the *humility* of the gift, and the *joy* and *triumphant* manner in which it was announced. Anyone who meditates on the Christmas story will experience the generosity cutting through the greed, the excellence discarding the mediocre, the humble shining over the snob, and joy replacing fear.

Miracle #4: The miracle of New Birth. Jesus was born supernaturally through the power of the Holy Spirit. Those who believe in Jesus are also born supernaturally through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you have not experienced the New Birth, you can! Confess your sins and repent. Believe that Jesus died for your sins. Invite Christ into your life.