

Privileged to Serve

PreacherBill Collins
 Announcements.....Randy Rives
 Song LeaderAndy Duncan
 Attendance Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer Dwight Callens
 Lord’s Supper

Presiding

* Randy Rives

Assisting

Charles Dooley * * Lamar King

Gene Hurst * * Ralph Hubbard

Closing Prayer Rob Warren

Evening

Opening Prayer..... Byron Madison
 Lord’s Supper

Charles Dooley * * Lamar King

Closing PrayerJacob King

Communion Preparation

Month of December Kitty Dooley

Month of January..... Sabrina Collins

Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Evening Worship5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study6:00 p.m.

Elders

DWIGHT CALLENS (601) 527-7149

TOM FAIR..... (601) 681-8293

Deacons

LAMAR KING..... (601) 604-2656

BUILDING/GROUNDS

BYRON MADISON (601) 934-1213

YOUTH

RANDY RIVES (601) 513-4785

EDUCATION & WORSHIP

ALBERT ST CLAIR..... (601) 626-7815

Preacher

BILL COLLINS (337) 515-2385

Works Supported

Robert Martin & Stacey Ferguson

South Pacific Missions

Pine Vale Children’s Home

Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class 32

Sunday Morning Worship 73

Sunday Evening Worship 64

Wednesday Bible Study 34

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 2,271.56

Daily Bible Readers

December 11, 2016 22 = 30.13% of attending

*Figures Unavailable



December 18, 2016 Meridian Messenger Welcome Visitors!

Teach Your Children To Be Givers

Focus Press: Posted by Brad Harrub, PH.D.

It’s no secret that we live in a materialistic society. The mainstream media constantly bombards us with advertisements of products that we “need.” My generation has perfected the art of “keeping up with the Joneses.” In fact, most individuals my age wanted to start their marriages with the same material possessions that it took our parents thirty years to amass. And so, we purchased it all—on credit.

We are a generation of consumers and takers. Sadly, this selfishness is now being passed on to future generations, as children want more and more. Holidays such as Christmas are no longer about family and memories, but rather they revolve around commercialism and “things.”

Here’s what I intend on teaching my children about giving versus taking.

Every Christmas morning since you were born your mother and I have set up a video camera to record the events of the morning. It’s one of the ways we have recorded you growing up through the years, as you went from crawling over presents and playing with empty boxes, to running into the room trying to guess exactly what was in each box. One of our joys as parents has been watching you tear open the wrapping paper and seeing your eyes light up as you see what was contained in each package.

Having been reared in the United States, you are extremely blessed. You have never experienced poverty or not had something you need. In fact, most of the time you get things you want. But your mother and I worry about what we are teaching you regarding giving versus taking. One of my greatest hopes is that during your lifetime you will learn the joy of giving. Undoubtedly, you will grow up around individuals who surround themselves with “things.” But remember, things won’t buy happiness. Remember that those “things” can never fill the void in your life as He can. And never forget ultimately Who owns everything.

There are literally thousands of individuals who have abandoned the Faith in favor of material possessions. These people are selfish takers. They never learned the art of giving. In the book of Acts, Paul reminded the people of the words Jesus Christ who said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” ([Acts 20:35](#)). Never forget this admonition from the Son of God. I pray that as you grow older you will constantly be on the lookout for ways to give to others. The feeling you get inside is like none other. Practice random acts of kindness. Never forget—people are much more valuable than things.

When your mom and I were in Russia, we had the opportunity to visit the “flat” (apartment) of one of the local Christians. They lived a beautiful life, but it was obvious they did not own nearly the material possessions we did. They worked hard just to get by. During our visit, we complimented a picture she had hanging on the wall, and she literally went over and took it off the wall and gave it to us. *~continued inside~*

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