

“This relationship begins with

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD,

acknowledging that it is the truth, then making an intellectual decision to establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ now.”

Worship With Us

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**Adult Bible Study 9am-9:45
10:00 - 11:30**

Children's Church

Fellowship after the Service

**WATCH LIVE/RECORDED ON FACEBOOK @
ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP, CHEWELAH**

2nd Sunday: Communion

WEBPAGE www.abundantlifechewelah.com
includes the Sunday Bulletin and on-line giving.



Brown Bag
Bible Study
Noon
Wednesday's

We going through the book of Acts! Questions? Call Trish at 675-5967 .



The Yada Yada group is meeting @ noon on Tuesday's. They continue in Self To Lose, Self to Find. Call Linda, 936-0031 for info.



To join in a prayer group or to be part of a new one, call Debbie Barbee 935-6269 or Carol Stickney (509)563-9725.



SOCIETY MEETING & POTLUCK Sunday, December 5th after Fellowship Potluck

FM Members will vote on Delegate and Board of Director positions. Absentee ballots will be available for those unable to attend because of COVID. Annual reports will be presented by ministry leaders.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



6:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Come and join us in celebrating the reason for the season, the birth of our Lord Jesus!

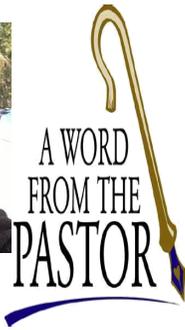


Hands Across Nations fund raising AUCTION is all online! Bidding started Mondy the 29th and runs until December 10th at 8pm.

You can go to our website, www.handsacrossnations.org to link to the auction registration at any time. There's something for everyone and every price range! Places to stay, play, and eat.....baskets for every occasion.....small individual items.....think "Christmas Gifts"! This year we will have 2 distribution places. One in Spokane and the other in Chewelah. Winners will arrange to pick up their items at either place. Certificate items will be sent through USPS. Call Carolyn at 509-979-7448 or me at 509-935-6269 with any questions!



Pastor Brenda



Another year has come and gone. As I look back through my photos over the year, I realize just how much has happened and how much God has done. It's good to take the time to look back and reflect on the works of God, it's so encouraging. You may be looking back over the year and wondering where God has been. It's like that poem, "Footprints in the Sand". You may not realize he's been there, but he has been there all along, and maybe even carried you through some of your hardest moments.

During this time of year people, tend to be generous and grateful. It's fun to give and receive from each other, to see a person's eyes light up when they realize you've been thinking about them. It also feels good to realize others have been thinking about you as they hand you a card or a jar of homemade jam.

All of this is wonderful, but the best and most important thing about this time of year is being so much more intentional about anticipating the coming of our Lord Jesus. He has come as a baby and we anticipate is coming again. Each week we meditate on a different characteristic of Jesus, hope, peace, joy, and love. We think about how he impacts our lives and the world as a whole through each of those characteristics. It should also cause us to take time to think about how we live into those characteristics as well. We can ask ourselves, "How well do I look to the hope of Jesus?" "Do I experience the peace of God when things around me are in chaos?" "When people see me, do they see someone who is filled with joy?" Maybe the most important question is, "How well do I love God and love people?"



I pray that during this Christmas season your heart will be turned toward the very anticipated coming of Jesus. Mostly, I pray that you are aware of when he comes each and every day, and you recognize what he's doing in your life.

Verse of the Month

Hebrews 10:24-25

Let's also think about how to motivate each other to show love and to do good works. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.



This may seem like a strange passage to have as our verse of the month during the Christmas season, but I think it's perfect. It encourages us to love each other and do good things for each other. Christmas is the perfect time to meet together as believers to not only celebrate Jesus, but to encourage each other. This is a time of year when many people just need a little encouragement and we can be that for each other.

Merry Christmas to each of you.





(From PaKep) We faced restrictions in many ways for many years. Christmas is the best season to share about Jesus Christ and his salvation to other people. In the Christmas season neither the Buddhist community nor the government complains about Christmas programs or events. We invite the community, or we visit the community with Christmas gifts and share about Jesus. So, Christmas season is the best time to do missions – share about Jesus, about Christmas.

This year is more difficult to gather together for any activities. So we are praying to share about Jesus (Christmas) with pamphlets and with a small Christmas gift (small rice bags). We are praying to reach at least 1,500 people who do not know about Jesus and Christmas, by faith during this Christmas season.

It has been almost 2 years that we have been able to gather together as a church family. Today we held children's day activities. They were so glad to meet and gather together with their friends!

Thank you so much for your love and prayers,
PaKep Thang



Hands Across Nations translators, Richard Otim and Ouni Victor back in 2017, described how they celebrate Christmas in the Langi villages;

For months, women are preoccupied with gathering of materials for brewing beer or drinks, flour and firewood. They use cow dung to “smear” the walls of their huts to look pleasing. The men ensure there is plenty of meat for Christmas day, and all the additional days they will be together. A new dress for the women family members is expected, and people prepare to stay in a group of 10-20 or more neighbors up to the full month of December.

A day or two before Christmas, the people gather at the home of one clan member who was selected to host the celebration. Women in the group brew beer and bring millet bread and cooked rice from home. The men collect and bring meat or money to buy a bull or two, and goats, which will be cooked over open fires in huge “sauce pans” by the women.

Christmas morning, Christians of all denominations go to church which is often a mud hut with thatched roof, to celebrate Christ's birth with singing, dancing and praising God for his blessed gift of a savior. On Christmas night, each man sits on a stool, the women either sit on animal skins, papyrus mats or the grass. Their hands are washed using a basin, offered to each person by a young woman.

Food is served to guests in this order: Men first, starting with the oldest down to the youngest adults, then children, followed by mother's and babies and last, anyone who has nothing - the poor, sick, and disabled. The food is served into one large dish, which is shared by all and is scooped and eaten with bare hands. Few have silverware. After eating there is a rewashing. Drinking and dancing then goes on long into the night. This festivity could last up to a month into the New Year.

Christmas is celebrated by the Christian Langngi people for several reasons: God was born among them, there is a spirit of unity, love and respect for one another, and caring for those who have nothing.

May Christ's birth be celebrated in our homes this Christmas.

"Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain! And God granted what he asked. 1 Chronicles 4:10

When searching for God's direction, we can turn to the prayer of Jabez. In it, we find an example of faithful prayer in action.

The Old Testament book of 1 Chronicles is a genealogical record written by Ezra after the Babylonian exile of God's people. Jabez, demonstrated how to pray God's will over our lives. It "relates to the covenant promises to Israel that find their fulfillment in Christ." For the rebellious tribe of Judah returning from exile, Jabez's story was significant. "Despite his hard beginning, he was honored because of his relationship with God. This was a valuable lesson for a people struggling with their own identity."

We are to establish and maintain prayer without end in our daily lives. Jabez was not using prayer as a formula to get something from God; rather, he was calling upon God to help him accomplish the promises of God. **How We Can Pray Like Jabez;** "But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit" Jude 1:20. Jabez prayed for four things:

1. That God would bless him
2. That God would enlarge his territory
3. That God's hand might be with him
4. That God would keep him from evil

For a proper interpretation of his prayer, it should be read through a spiritually sound lens, not one of materialism. God's blessings are the real things that produce real effects. We can but wish a blessing: He commands it. The enlargement of territory Jabez prayed for was deeply connected to the landscape of his heart. He left many *disciples* behind, not possessions. The territory of his heart expanded and overflowed to those around him. "That God would enlarge our hearts," wrote Matthew Henry, "is to be our desire and prayer."

Jabez prayed for God to be with him. He also prayed God would protect him from being a *Jabez* (his mother named him Jabez because he was born in pain)! That He would keep him from evil, the evil of sin, the evil of trouble, and all the evil designs of his enemies, that they might not hurt him, nor grieve him, nor make him a Jabez indeed, "a man of sorrow."

Jabez's Old Testament prayer can be aligned with the way Jesus taught us to pray Matthew 6:5-15. "They think that they will be heard for their many words," Jesus said in Matthew 6:7-8. "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." We can not only pray like Jabez but also *expound upon* his prayer. The Spirit of God lives in us and translates our prayers and mutterings to God in heaven! Christ taught us how to pray: "Pray then like this: our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" Matthew 6:9-13.

James reminds us, "You do not have, because you do not ask" James 4:2. A disciplined life of biblical prayer keeps us in constant touch with God and reliant on Him more than our own grasp to solve and achieve.

- Praise God for who He is. Remember specific answers to prayer, list virtues of His character, and ask Him to reveal more.
- Ask God to give us a heart like Jesus and increase the use of our lives to spread the gospel.
- Acknowledge God's power and reign. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be manifested in our daily lives.
- Pray for God to guard our hearts and for His protection from every evil, both seen and unseen.
- Pray everything in Jesus' name. Express the desire to align every intention with God's will.

"God is the God of the whole earth and all the nations and all of history and all of life and culture and all the universe from one end of the galaxies to the other. Each of us was created to have a significant place in that great scheme. What is it? What do you pray for day in and day out about how you fit into that?" —John Piper



*Bible Study Tools by Meg

NEED PRAYER?

HOLLY CALVERT 935-6485

MARY KNAPP 936-0319



Abundant Life Fellowship

LOVE GOD.



LOVE PEOPLE.

MAKE DISCIPLES.

Pastor Brenda Nagunst: Office and Community Hours:
Monday- Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Business Office: Tues., Thurs. 9a-1a, Wed. 9a-12, 1p-2p

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