



## FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 21, 2020

### PLUS ONE!



PERHAPS NOT THIS YEAR, BUT OTHER MORE "NORMAL" YEARS WHEN YOU HOSTED CHRISTMAS PARTIES AND DINNERS IN YOUR HOME, ONE OF THOSE COMING MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT A "PLUS ONE." THEY BROUGHT A DATE. HOW EXCITING TO MEET THIS NEW PERSON AND SUBTLY INTERVIEW, ANALYZE AND INTERROGATE THEM. (YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN . . .).

THINK NOW ABOUT ANOTHER VERY SPECIAL "PLUS ONE," JESUS CHRIST. IT'S INTERESTING WHEN YOU REMEMBER THAT THE REASON MARY AND JOSEPH LEFT NAZARETH AND TRAVELED NINETY MILES SOUTH TO BETHLEHEM WAS BECAUSE CAESAR AUGUSTUS DICTATED THAT "A CENSUS BE TAKEN OF ALL THE INHABITED EARTH." (LUKE 2:1). MARY AND JOSEPH CAME TO SIGN THEIR NAMES IN THE REGISTRY OF THEIR ANCESTRAL CITY AND LIKELY PAY A TAX. THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THEY DID THIS BEFORE OR AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT "WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE COMPLETED FOR HER TO GIVE BIRTH." (LUKE 2:6)

NOW ISN'T THIS AMAZING. WE DON'T KNOW THAT MARY GAVE BIRTH THE FIRST NIGHT THAT THEY WERE IN BETHLEHEM (THOUGH THAT'S THE THOUGHT THAT IS GENERALLY CIRCULATED.) BUT LET'S ASSUME FOR JUST A MINUTE THAT THEY HAD COMPLETED THEIR REGISTRATION BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH. THEY LISTED TWO NAMES, JOSEPH AND MARY. BUT THEN BEFORE THEY LEFT TOWN, THEY MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE AND ADDED ANOTHER NAME . . . A PLUS ONE AND THAT ONE WAS THE ONE!

AND THEN THINK TOO ABOUT WHAT NAME THEY WOULD LIST ON THAT REGISTRY. WHO IS THIS NEWBORN? WELL THEY LIKELY NEEDED EXTRA ROOM FOR THIS REGISTRATION. LET'S SEE, THIS ONE IS THE "SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD." (LUKE 2:11). BUT THEN HE WAS ALSO "JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS." (MATTHEW 1:21). BUT THAT'S NOT ALL, HIS NAME WAS ALSO TO BE CALLED "IMMANUEL, WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS, GOD WITH US." (MATTHEW 1:23 AND ISAIAH 7:14). AND THEN AS LONG AS THEY EVEN BEGAN TO CONSIDER THE OLD TESTAMENT'S NAMES FOR THE NEWBORN, THEY'D HAVE TO INCLUDE AT LEAST FOUR MORE FROM ISAIAH 9:6, "WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, ETERNAL FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE." WOW, THAT'S LOTS OF NAMES (AND THERE ARE DOZENS MORE)!

THIS ONE IS THE ONE FROM GOD. THE ONE WHO IS THE ONLY WAY AND TRUTH AND LIFE, THE ONLY MEANS OF SALVATION AND HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN (JOHN 14:6). NOW THAT'S TRULY AMAZING ISN'T IT? WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT SOME SILLY CENSUS COULD MEAN SO MUCH!

MERRY CHRISTMAS,  
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE