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THE NEWSLETTER OF

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The Mission of FBCWR:
To present the Lord Jesus Christ:His work on the cross and His in-dwelling power to meet man's needs.

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THE CRADLE, THE CROSS AND THE PURSUIT OF GOD

Forget for a minute ***our*** pursuit of a deeper relationship with God. The scriptures say some fascinating things about how our relationship with Him got started in the first place. Jesus said in John 15:16 that He chose us and we didn't choose Him. Paul said in Romans 5:8-10 that God loved us and redeemed us when we were still His enemies. This is humbling to my sense of religious pride but it is also very freeing because there are times I don't seem to have much spiritual zeal. Thank God that developing a relationship with Him is not all up to me.

WHO'S CHASING WHOM?

Why did God transform His glorious Son into a vulnerable infant? To pursue you and me. Why did He stretch out His Son's arms and nail them to a cross? To pursue you and me. He has tapped us on the shoulder, jumped up and down and waved His arms in our face. What is He saying to us? That He wants us to respond, to receive His forgiveness, His love, His peace. He loves to spend time with us. He loves to talk to us and encourage us and build us up. He longs for us to pour out our concerns and requests to Him.

The young prophet Samuel heard God calling him over and over yet kept running to answer the priest Eli. It apparently hadn't dawned on him that God desired a direct relationship with him. Once we realize how much God desires us, we can rest in Him, knowing His grace, His unmerited, undeserved favor.

GIFT IDEA FOR JESUS' 2000th

So what birthday gift do we give to a 2000 year old who has everything? How about our attention? As Eli told Samuel, just say to Him when He calls, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." This Christmas, listen for His voice, know He pursues you and