

# The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER  
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FELLOWSHIP  
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WHITE ROCK

The Mission of  
FBCWR:  
*Connecting People  
to God's Life-  
Changing Power*  
  
*We've Got  
Connections!*

*And suddenly there  
appeared with the angel  
a multitude of the heav-  
enly host praising God  
and saying, "Glory to  
God in the highest, And  
on earth peace among  
whom He is pleased."*

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## Make Room for Jesus

The simplicity of life often befuddles. This is never more true than around what we call "The Holidays". Followers of Jesus are not excluded—we can mix things up with the best of the confused. What kind of Christmas will you have this year? The answer to that question has everything to do with our focus. "Watch over your heart with all diligence for out of it flows the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). In other words our focus determines the course of our life. So where is your focus this Christmas season?

### A Bling-Bling Christmas?

Just in case the terminology is a curve ball to you, "bling-bling" is street slang for fancy jewelry and material goods. "What did you get for Christmas" will soon be echoing throughout the land after Christmas. I don't recall anyone ever asking me what I gave for Christmas. Jesus said "It is better to give than to receive". Perfect, you say, I love to give. But what climate do we create with gifts, especially for the little ones? We must teach them about giving, not just about receiving.

Jesus entered the world on a low budget. He didn't demand a lot of hype. His public relation's team was headed up by poor sheep herders. The crowd was predominantly animals in an old stable. He got three expensive gifts but that only slightly balances the fact his first crib was an animal's food trough.

### A Bob Cratchett Christmas?

Cratchett was victimized by Scrooge

but he overcame. Sometimes during this season we focus on past hurts and what we are missing in our relationships. The sense of loss and hurt can blanket us like a heavy snow. We nurse the wounds of Christmas' past and wonder why we feel so empty. The struggle is more acute during the holidays because it should be a time of enjoying relationships but sometimes the reality is the opposite. Sure people have let us down (and you have let them down), but don't stay down. Pray for those who hurt you, bless them and reach out to them with unconditional love, like Jesus did to us on the first Christmas.

### A Christ-centered Christmas?

This of course is our goal—to keep Christ Who is the main thing the main thing. Don't tire of the wonderful story we tell over and over every year. It really doesn't get any better than this. Let the message sink the eighteen inches from our head to our heart. Let His warmth and the glow of His peace fill your heart.

One way to focus on Jesus is to set Him right in the middle of the festivities. Pray before you open the gifts. Worship at our Christmas Eve service—it will be from 5:30-6:30pm, a mere hour long on the big night. Pass out flyers to invite folks in the community to the service. On Christmas Day gather the family together and read the Christmas story out of God's Word in Luke 2 instead of scattering to play with presents. "Watch over your heart" this Christmas.

-Joe Fornear



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS