



The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER

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FELLOWSHIP
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The Mission of
FBCWR:

*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

*... for He Himself has
said, "I WILL NEVER
DESERT YOU, NOR
WILL I EVER
FORSAKE YOU,"
-Hebrews 13:5*

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Come Home for Christmas

After I apply the last dab of blissfully bright yellow paint to the hay around baby Jesus, I stand back to admire the plywood masterpiece destined for my front yard Christmas décor. All faces, even the animal's, beam with euphoric grins, making me wish for a second that I could have been there - that moment in history when the Savior of the world was born. But when I realize that not all in those days were sitting around smiling at our Lord, I ponder the first Christmas.

I know it was different. There were no mall crowds and hectic traffic, or aisles of electronic toys demanding attention. Homes were not decorated with enough twinkle lights to reach the moon and back. Yet even though Christmas fever had not yet taken hold, people back then had much in common with us today. The human heart is the same now as it was then. Many of the same struggles exist in our modern times, and one in particular can be traced all the way back to the Garden of Eden—the painful grip of loneliness.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were alienated from Him, from each other as a couple and from themselves as individuals. They were disconnected from the fellowship for which they were designed. Loneliness entered the human race. So, loneliness is not just about being alone. Some of the loneliest people are in crowds. It is a basic human problem that can affect anyone.

This loneliness is especially preva-

lent during the holidays. Unknown to you, many around you may be feeling cut off from any meaningful contact with others. You may even have these feelings yourself. What is the cure? What can ease the pain of loneliness? That baby in the hay. He grew up and paid the price for us to be returned to fellowship with God – *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” - John 3:16.*



What if you are already a Christian and still feel the ache of loneliness? What do you do? You can start by devoting yourself to becoming more intimate with God. It is the season for giving, so give more of yourself to the Lord and then give more of yourself to those around you. Reach out to your neighbors that may be trapped within the walls of loneliness. Like the star of Bethlehem, shine your light in this dark world and lead others to the King of Glory. There is something freeing about helping others, and a heart full of the Lord is sure to melt the frost of loneliness. Some verses of encouragement: Psalm 46:1, Psalm 147:3, Psalm 27:10, 1 Peter 5:7. **-Tim Reid**