

The Exchanger

THE EXCHANGER IS
THE MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
OF
FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

The Mission of
FBCWR:

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

*We've Got
Connections!*

For since
He Himself
was tempted
in that which He
has suffered, He is
able to come to the aid
of those who are
tempted.

Hebrews 2:18

INSIDE

Been Here, Done This	1
What's News at F.B.C.W.R.	2
Calendar	3
Ministry Spotlight	4

Been Here, Done This

Ready or not, we're neck deep in another Christmas season which began this year one week before Halloween. So what can I say about this holy day which hasn't been said before? While there is "nothing new under the sun", there is plenty of material that never gets old.

No offense to us, but it was quite a demotion for Jesus to become like us. His goal was to forever bridge the gaping divide between human and divine experience. We now know God knows what it's like to be human. No one can ever accurately say, "God, you just don't understand".

He Really Gets Me?

The author of Hebrews put it this way in 4:15 – *"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin"*. Tempted in all things, including creature comforts? Yes. He knows what it is like to be tired, even totally exhausted. He has felt the plummet of blood sugar and the mood change which accompanies hunger. He has felt the urge to skip work (or church—yeah I know, perish the thought) because the blankets seemed so warm and the room so cold. He had opportunities to dodge family chores until someone else picked up for Him.

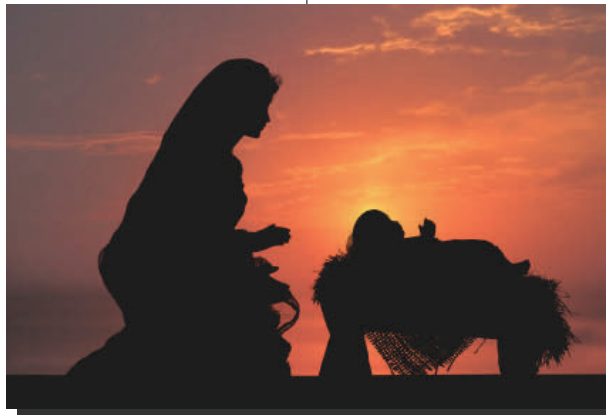
People Issues?

He was tempted in all things but what about relational problems? The Word says He was acquainted with aloneness, sorrows and rejections. He knows how it feels to be left out, forgotten, even deliberately ostracized. He absorbed false accusations and forgave His betrayers. He graciously endured being framed and took the ultimate fall with the law.

No Snobbery Either?

He has "been here, done this", and without error.

One might think His phenomenal success at being human would render Him impatient with our often meager progress. Not at all. He knows the journey is tough. The next verse in Hebrews



4:16 reveals the depth of His empathy. *"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"*. No condemnation there, just an invitation to the undeserving to draw near for grace and mercy. So He gets that I struggle and He knows exactly why and is still willing to help! Well then, let Christmas come even earlier next year. We can marvel at His grand identification all year round.

-Joe Fornear