

Wade's News for December 2023



The activity staff at Mitchell Care Center work hard to provide a meaningful Christmas experience for the residents at the care center. Christmas in the nursing home can be depressing when the residents are often left without family during the holiday season. My part is to share Christmas services with Christmas Biblical teaching and Carols.

In the last Newsletter I told you we had gotten in touch with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association concerning bringing Will Graham into this area for a series of evangelistic meetings. As members of the BGE team evaluated our request it was discovered they do not have enough field personnel to include our request at this time. They are currently putting together an evangelistic effort in northern Colorado (as well as many others around the world). Usually, they put three staff members on an evangelistic field for about three years for preparation for the meetings and then one member stays on the field for about a year to aid follow-up. Churches from northern Colorado had made their request before we did and so it was decided to complete that work. It will be some time in 2025 before that work is finished. Whether we will be reconsidered at that time I do not know. Thank you very much for praying about this matter. God's leading (closed door) is clear.

In the fall months COVID is beginning to occur again. It has entered the nursing homes but so far where I serve it is less restrictive than before. Family and friends are still permitted. Staff members and regular people like me have had to wear masks again. The residents do not. However, today the mask restriction was lifted.



Two helpers from FSB.

There are two young women who are students at Frontier School of the Bible who have wanted to experience nursing home ministry. They come Wednesday afternoons to join me in visitation. Thus far residents they have been visiting have expressed much appreciation for them. It gives me an opportunity to do on the job training of future servants of the Lord.

Shoebox Ministry



help with expenses.

Again, this year we put together Samaritan Purse Shoe boxes for children all over the world. This year we had fewer responses than usual but 30 kids will hear the Gospel, have a chance to receive Christ and will be followed up on to help them grow in Christ. I appreciate so much those who participated and those who gave to

The Candy Maker

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make candy that would be a witness. So, he made the Christmas Candy Cane we are so familiar with. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He began with a pure white stick of hard candy. The white symbolized the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of the Lord Jesus Christ. The hardness of the candy symbolized Christ the Solid Rock upon which the Church is built. Also, it symbolized the firmness of the promises of God.



He made it to form a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus. When it is turned over it also represents the staff of a shepherd. The shepherd's crook was used to reach out and catch the sheep. The Lord Jesus reaches down into the deep ditches of the world to lift out His fallen Lambs.

The candy seemed somewhat plain so the candy maker decided to put a narrow red strip on it to represent the blood shed by the Lord Jesus when the Roman Soldiers scourged Him. He put a wider red stripe on the candy to represent the blood shed by our Savior when on the cross to pay for our sins so that we may have eternal life in Him.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a Candy Cane---a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. Many things about Christmas get lost or forgotten when we focus on things other than the birth of Christ. Let us give our attention to our Blessed Savior at Christmas.

Along with Scripture Christmas colors help us focus on Christ. Think of the colors of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:19-21. Jasper is red, Sapphire is deep blue. Chalcedony is blueish and multi-colored. Emerald is deep green. Sardonyx is red. Sardius is multicolored. Chrysolite is light green and multi-colored. Beryl is light green. Topaz is light to dark blue. Chrysoprase is apple green and layered. Jacinth is yellowish to brownish. Amethyst is purple. Many of these colors we use at Christmas. And that is just the foundation of the wall. The gold of the streets is transparent. God the Father and Jesus give light to the whole city. That light shines through the foundation stones. God the Father and Jesus are its temple. The twelve gates are twelve pearls. At Christmas we can imagine all the wonderful colors and get just a tiny glimpse of the stunning beauty of the New Jerusalem. The evergreen tree has no equivalent in the Biblical story of Christ's birth. But we could use it to represent everlasting life. It points upward to heaven from which the Lord will return with His holy angels. "And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord." I Thess. 4:16-17.

May the beauty and wonder of Christ capture our hearts!

Merry Christmas!



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Two men made professions of faith in Christ this last year. Attendance at Bible Studies is increasing in spite of the usual downward trend in health. Thank you for all your special help in this ministry.

According to Pew research data Americans pay an extra \$645 million in December for electricity just for Christmas lighting. We consume 3.5 billion kWh extra in December.

In order to understand the nationwide impact, Arcadia looked at the number of households in each state, using the [Pew Research's data](#) that found 90% of households celebrate Christmas. Arcadia assumed that half of homes that celebrate Christmas use lights, which leads to the total consumption of 3.5 billion kWh in the month of December to power Christmas lights in the United States.

Using Arcadia's proprietary nationwide energy bill data, they estimated that running those lights in December costs Americans a total of \$645 million. For each household that has Christmas lights, that's an average of an extra \$12 on their December power bill (up to \$20 in California).

Of course, that's chump change compared to the \$465 billion we spend on Holiday gifts and goodies, according to the National Retail Federation. But it's nice to know the good feelings of lights is such a great bargain.