



Mary CHRISTmas!:

Receive Jesus: God's Sure Hope

CCF CHRONICLE

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

In the Bible, "hope" is something absolute as it is backed up by the character, promises, and the word of God. We are living in dark times globally, nationally, and personally, and we need a sure hope that is in Jesus.

Mary was the young girl that God chose to bear His Son, Immanuel. She lived in very dark times under Roman rule, when people eagerly anticipated the Messiah's arrival to liberate them. However, God had far grander plans for His Son, Jesus. If Mary were here today, she would tell us that Christmas is all about Jesus. Our response should be to receive Jesus — God's sure hope.

Grace: "I don't deserve this!" (LUKE 1:26-28)

The angel appeared to Mary and mentioned the word "favored". While God chooses us by His sovereign will, "favored" signifies grace or kindness. Mary stands as an example for us who, being an ordinary person, had her hope in Jesus.

Mary was engaged to Joseph when the angel appeared to her. In Jewish tradition and law, engaged couples were practically considered husband and wife. In the same way, Joseph, a descendant of David, also had a message of hope about the Messiah - that He will be "our righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:5-6). Because of sin, we did not have the righteousness enough to get to heaven, and for this we need the righteousness of God through Jesus. This righteousness, which is pure, holy, and perfect, is transferred or imputed to us only by grace.

The name of the Messiah, "Jesus," simply meant that He came to save people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). This mission remains true today. Jesus, as God and the King of the Jews, is not an earthly king with a limited reign; He is God incarnate, rescuing us continuously from sin.

Mary's question, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" could have been a matter of life or death for her, but the angel replied that it was not because of her but because of the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is holy and sinless

because He wasn't subject to the sinful nature of Adam; He was purely the work of His Heavenly Father. Mary responded to God's grace by surrendering to His will. Just as Jesus physically lived in Mary, the Spirit of Jesus spiritual lives in believers today (Galatians 2:20). Let us choose to receive God's GRACE.

Good News: "I must tell someone!" (LUKE 1:39-45)

Mary undertook a journey to see Elizabeth (vv.39-40) and shared the good news with her. Elizabeth acknowledged that the Messiah which Mary will then bear was her Lord, and she then blessed both Mary and the baby (Jesus) in her womb.

When someone comes to know Jesus, we ought to rejoice as the angels in heaven do over one sinner who repents. It's crucial for us believers to share the good news with those who are yet to know Christ. Believing in grace and putting our faith in Jesus brings true blessings. We must share the GOOD NEWS.

Glory: "I will praise God always!" (LUKE 1:46-56)

Mary, like anyone else, admitted her need for a Savior. God, holy and intolerant of sin, was benevolent enough to send His Son. When we recognize our helplessness and hopelessness without Him, we experience His mercy from generation to generation. Prophecies about Christ were expressed in a definite manner (future / past tense) because God's words and His promises were bound to take place; it is reliable. Mary foretold God's help to Israel, a certainty that Jesus will come to Jerusalem, fight the final decisive battle, and reign on earth forever. Christmas signifies Jesus' first coming, but He will return, and every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11). We must always give God the GLORY.

*last week's
memory verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

LUKE 1:37

discuss the message

Have you admitted your need for God's grace to be forgiven and saved from sin? Why or why not? Briefly share your spiritual journey.

With whom can you share your faith in Jesus? When and how will you do it?

In what area/s of your life do you need to give God the glory, and what will you do about it?

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CHRONICLE ONLINE!
ccf.org.ph/chronicle/

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4WS EVERY MONDAY!
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What's the perfect gift this Christmas?

Let's talk about it at **Welcome Center!**

Step into the Community

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

WOW Thursdays is on Christmas break!

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

-  ccfwomen2women
-  CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

BIG MINISTRY SINGLES

B1G Ministry is on Christmas break!

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

-   B1GMinistry
-  beonewithgod

NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

Merry and Bright: Let the Joy of Christmas Light the New Year

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM
G/F North Wing

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

-   ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12
-  zoom for ages 7-12

Learn More About Our Faith

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

Join a GLC Training!

GLC Level 2 — Face-to-Face

[OPEN TO ALL]

December 10, 2023

Sunday at 1:00 PM, Room 3A

- Survey of the Bible

GLC Level 2 — Zoom [OPEN TO ALL]

December 14, 2023

Thursday at 7:30 PM

- Survey of the Bible

Go to bit.ly/GLCTraining2023 to register

GLC Online

[OPEN TO ALL]

- A self-paced learning format tailored to your unique schedule. Be equipped at your own time, own place and own pace.

Register here: glc.ccf.org.ph/online/

GLC in Dgroups

[OPEN TO ALL]

- Facilitate GLC materials in your DGroup meetings. Learn how you can be part of GLC in DGroups! Register here:

bit.ly/GLCRegistrationForm

To know more about other GLC trainings and available resources, visit glc.ccf.org.ph

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13



ccf SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

5:00 PM

SUNDAY SERVICES ENGLISH

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

FILIPINO

ONLINE LIVESTREAMS

 ccf.org.ph  ccfmain  ccfmainTV

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

Visit ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/ for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.