



It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. It's a time when we stop to celebrate the birth of our Savior: to celebrate how God took on human flesh and broke into our broken world to make a way for us to be saved. It is also a time when people are often more open to talking about spiritual things. As a result, it is a great time for outreach, and opportunities abound to share the real reason for the season.

In this issue, we have highlighted some incredible ministry efforts taking place in our community during the Christmas season. Some of these events have become annual holiday traditions that have touched hundreds or thousands of people over the years.

We encourage you to support the God-honoring outreach activities undertaken by the churches and organizations in your community. Volunteer to help where needed. Pray for them. Let's join together as the body of Christ and reach

> our world during Christmas season. It truly the most wonderful time of the year!

> > Cover photo taken by Jonalan Wright, An Eclectic Ministry.

Wres... Here are the featured albums and songs played on Faith Radio throughout our local musicoriented programs:

> All Sons & Daughters POETS & SAINTS I Surrender



Bethel Worship HAVE IT ALL Have It All (featuring Brian Johnson)

Casting Crowns THE VERY NEXT THING One Step Away



Ionny Diaz **EVERYTHING IS CHANGING** Breathe

Gateway Worship GATEWAY WORSHIP VOICES 139 (featuring David & Alena Moore)





Josh Gilbert WORSHIP Holy Spirit Come

Danny Gokey HOPE IN FRONT OF ME Tell Your Heart to Beat Again Hope in Front of Me





Grace Covenant Worship (Chantilly, VA) YOU ARE GOD You Are God

Todd Smith THERE'S A LIGHT There's a Light





Soulfire Revolution WE WILL RISE UP Afterglow



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from our listeners.

Your letters, e-mail messages and phone calls are encouraged and invited. Your opinions, comments, concerns, prayer requests and suggestions provide us with helpful input from our most important listener - YOU!

"I mailed a check vesterday to support one day of broadcasting for Faith Radio. I wish I could do more. The programming on Faith Radio is a bright beacon in what is becoming a dark world. I am so blessed to be able to do this. It is not possible for me to reach the breadth of people for God that Faith Radio does, but I can help by being a part of sending God's Word to my world even if it is only for a day. My prayers also come with this donation that those listening will not only hear but also see and know Him." - Notasulga, AL

"Thank you for sending the football schedules and the ministry magazines. Several more men want more."

- Mt. Meigs Prison, AL

"Thank you for your prayers, cards of encouragement, and your prayer team for praying for me." - Geneva, AL

"Thank you for all the ministries you support." - Anonymous

"Thank you for your service - sharing the GOOD NEWS of JESUS!" - Prattville, AL

PROGRAMMER SPOT LIGHTS Heard on Faith Radio

"The true celebration of Christmas is when we ponder afresh the grace of God who, became human, entered history through a virgin's womb, and brought redemption to the world." - David Jeremiah, Turning Point

"If we could condense all the truths of Christmas into only three words, these would be the words: 'God with us.' We tend to focus our attention at Christmas on the infancy of Christ. The greater truth of the holiday is His deity. More astonishing than a baby in the manger is the truth that this promised baby is the omnipotent Creator of the heavens and the earth!"

- John MacArthur, Grace To You

"Love is giving someone what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at a great personal cost to yourself." - Chip Ingram, Living on the Edge

Upcoming Faith Radio Events!



For more information on any of these events, please visit www.faithradio.org or call (800) 239-8900.



The Tradition of Crosses at Christmas

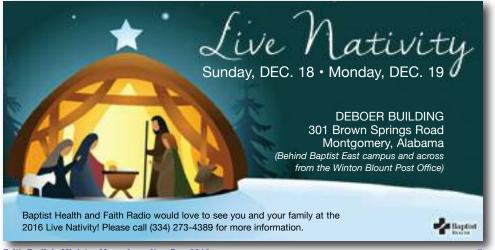




Over 10 years ago, Clay and Carrie Phillips began making and distributing Christmas crosses that have now become a River Region tradition for Faith Radio supporters. The Phillips family and friends build hundreds of these 7-foot self-standing wooden crosses for Faith Radio to distribute to listeners in exchange for a donation to our ministry. We are excited to expand our distribution areas to Dothan and Enterprise this year. Clay and Carrie shared, "We provide crosses at Christmas because they are a symbol of hope in a fallen world and a reminder of Christ's love for us."

Seeing neighborhoods lit up with the real reason for the season is encouraging to our community. These Christmas crosses are a tangible way to share Christ with your neighbors, and they provide a spiritual reminder to help others grow in their faith as they see God's light shining brightly in the darkness. In fact, many of our listeners also display their crosses at Easter, while some leave them up all year long.

With a donation to Faith Radio of at least \$35 per cross, you can tangibly share Christ in your neighborhood while giving a gift that helps fuel our ministry operations. These crosses are made of untreated wood, but with a little paint or varnish your cross will be ready to last for years. Add a strand of 300 lights and allow the light of Christ to shine brightly from your home!



nradio faces...

Faith Radio Events

(below) We attended the Gridiron Men's Conference in Birmingham along with 7,000 other men. We had special interviews, including time with speaker Andy Andrews.



Studio Visits (right) Having visitors for the State Combined Campaign visit our studios lets us share the importance of our ministry and thank them for supporting God's work with their campaigns.

STATE AND FEDERAL CAMPAIGN NUMBERS

Federal Employees State of Alabama Employees

106821

128005

68469

We had a few of our international ministry partners visit our studios so we could pray and plan for doing our very best for growing the Kingdom. Storley and Kate Michael from Haiti visited us, and we took a fun opportunity to make a selfie with Daniel Okabe from Uganda.





Faith Radio's Ministry Magazine - Nov-Dec 2016

Faith Radio on the Road

(below) Bob attended the International Christian Retail Show in Cincinnati and visited with Babbie Mason. He also traveled to the site of **The Ark Encounter**, the new Noah's Ark replica as seen in the background, and talked with developer Ken Ham.







(above) We like to go out and bring you stories of God at work. At the Alabama Family Retreat at Camp ASCCA, **Jason and Katherine Wolf** ministered to families with disabilities.

Faith Radio Visits Churches

(below) We are always blessed to be invited to speak and share with churches. Billy Irvin and Daniel Okabe shared with our friends at Heart of God Ministries!



(below) Dozens of area churches participated in the River Region Judgment House Banquet held at Frazer UMC, where new lead pastor Larry Bryars met First Baptist pastor Jay Wolf.



Family Faith Night #2

(below) At Riverwalk Stadium, thousands of people enjoyed our Family Faith Night #2 featuring Patrick Dopson in a pregame concert and a time to encourage area pastors

in the pastor line-up on the field.







Throughout the Christmas season, churches and organizations in the Faith Radio listening area are ministering to their communities in unique and creative ways. Some of these ministry efforts have become annual traditions that people include as a regular part of their Christmas celebration. Faith Radio is here to help spread the word about these events and to support opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ during a season when many are open to hearing the gospel. We have chosen to highlight three popular events here, but for a complete list, visit the online Community Calendar at www.faithradio.org.

An Eclectic Christmas



"It is the best way to legitimately forget about where you are... and just take it in." Those were the words of Jonalan Wright, board member and publicity director of An Eclectic Christmas, as he described the interactive, walk-through Christmas presentation that has been enjoyed by attendees from Central Alabama and beyond. As visitors follow the path of Mary and Joseph, they encounter horse-backed soldiers and characters from the biblical accounts.

The one-hour, three-quarter mile walk immerses visitors in the first Christmas. The journey begins with the census before Caesar and continues along the path to Bethlehem. Wright said, "we take a lot of time and effort to make sure that what we do is as realistic as possible. We just stay out of the way and let the Lord do His work."

The presentation requires over 200 volunteers each night, representing 50 to 60 area churches. This year, it will be presented on 10 nights, and the website has been open to take reservations since Labor Day.

The Ride to Bethlehem

The church members at Westview Baptist Church in Opp have taken a different approach to telling the Christmas story on their "Ride to Bethlehem" event, a hayride journey to a Bethlehem village. Along the route, which crosses the church's expansive property, visitors hear the Christmas story and a gospel presentation.

Pastor Gary Miller desires for people "to picture in their mind's eye what it might have been like" as Mary and Joseph travelled along the road to Bethlehem. The gospel, which is presented in front of three crosses, is key to the event. Miller noted, "that's why Jesus came."



He believes the church's involvement "draws you closer to one another but most of all, closer to the Lord." He said that it is now "part of our Christmas," and over 100 church members are present in period costumes each night of the presentation.

Holiday Spectacular Park

At the Holiday Spectacular Park in Wicksburg, near Dothan, over 14 million lights shine brightly to help share





the message of Christmas. Open every night in December, over 15,000 people visit the park yearly to see the life-size Christmas scenes, crosses, and nativity, while also enjoying the many children's activities, including hayrides.

Maxine Chappell, the co-founder of the park, shared with us her love for Christ and Christmas. She stated, "He is our provider, He is the source of our salvation, He is our peace, He is our joy, He is our everything! We built this park because we want others to be blessed by knowing the peace and love of Jesus Christ." Christmas music is very important to the Chappell family, and they cover the park with a variety of Christmas music, including live Christian music on the weekends. She also shared that they have a large number of crosses, including a Christmas cross from Faith Radio, located in front of the Chapel.

We encourage you to gather your family and friends and support these community outreach events. And let us know of any others in your area!



Count it all joy! How busy we are during the Christmas season, but we "count it all joy" because we get to experience so many wonderful events of our listeners and churches. Activities such as the Montgomery Family Christmas, Live Nativity with Baptist Health, Montgomery Christmas Parade, and Faith Radio Christmas crosses are regular events on the December calendar.

As we approach the year's end, we reflect back on many of the exciting events that filled our 2016 Faith Radio calendar. February was our annual trip to the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) meeting. We are still learners, and this gathering provided an endless flow of information as to how Christian broadcasters can be more effective in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Billy and Bob caught up with the Benham Brothers at the 2016 National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville.

Music was a highlight during March. The Beautiful Offerings Tour featuring Big Daddy Weave stopped at First Baptist Church of Prattville. Audio Adrenaline joined Michael Tait and the Newsboys as they opened the God's Not Dead Tour at Montgomery's Garrett Coliseum.



Faith Radio staff and friends enjoyed the Newsboys concert at the Garrett Coliseum.

Faith Radio was there when Franklin Graham's Decision America Tour came to the Capitol steps in April. There was a large contingent from across the state that came to pray for our leaders and our nation.



Bob and Billy interviewed Franklin Graham after his Decision America speech at the Capitol.

May was an event-filled month. Family Faith Night #1 with the Montgomery Biscuits featured special guest Natasha Owens. First Baptist Church of Prattville hosted Sandi Patty's



Natasha Owens was our guest worship leader for Family Faith Night in May.

Farewell Tour. Faith Radio team members attended various National Day of Prayer gatherings across the listening area. Our big event for the month was the celebration of our own Bob Crittenden's 25 years with Faith Broadcasting!



The staff celebrated with Bob Crittenden for being at Faith Radio for 25 years!

Phil Waldrep's Gridiron Men's Conference in Birmingham and Family Faith Night #2 were a part of our June-July highlights. Patrick Dopson led a beautiful worship service before the game at Riverwalk Stadium.

A football fan knows the season is near when Landmark Church hosts the Gridiron Kickoff in August. Chris Spielman delivered a dynamic testimony at the powerful men's event.



We always enjoy visiting with others at the Gridiron Kickoff at Landmark Church of Christ in Montgomery.

Last, but not least, was the annual Faith Radio Golf Tournament in September. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship was bountiful at our chief fundraising event of each year. We were grateful to Jesus and our ministry partners. Thank you for supplying for the needs of Faith Radio! God is using this ministry to proclaim His Word to the lost and the saved.



Over 200 participants enjoyed a perfect day on the golf course.



COLLINS "ACES" CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

ADITION

THRISTMAS

The Meeting House helps capture the spirit of the season

by Bob Crittenden, host of *The Meeting House*



hristmas is always a meaningful time at *The Meeting House*, and I am devoted to providing inspiring comments from guests to enhance our celebration of our Savior's birth.

One of my particularly intriguing guests, who has made several appearances on the program, is author Ace Collins. He has written a number of books related to aspects of the Christmas season, including, *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*.

During his most recent visit to the program, Ace explained the origins of several Christmas traditions. For instance, the Christmas tree was brought to the church some 1,500 years ago in pageants, in order to teach children about creation. Latvians hung the trees upside down, but the French later turned the tree over as we typically see it today. Apples were placed on the tree to signify the Garden of Eden. Martin Luther is said to have placed the first lights on a Christmas tree, using candles to explain that the world was dark until Christ came.

How about mistletoe? Ace said the plant was used by early missionaries visiting the Vikings, Druids, and Celts, who believed all plants would die. The mistletoe lived out of dead wood, representing Christ, who lived after being crucified on dead wood. The green color represented eternal life, the red berries were reminders of the blood of Christ, and the white berries showed the purity of Christ. The plant was used in weddings to remind

them of devotion to Christ. Because of what happens at the end of a wedding ceremony, mistletoe earned the reputation as a "kissing plant."



According to Ace, the oldest Christmas tradition is giving gifts, and the second oldest is carved nativity scenes. The only North American Christmas tradition is the poinsettia, which came from Mexico. The legend goes that a child had nothing to take to Jesus, so the child took the plant and the leaves turned red, signifying that Christ had accepted the sacrifice.

Christmas traditions and legends can be powerful ways to symbolize and communicate the meaning of Christ's birth. Thanks to Ace Collins for helping us learn about the history of these Christmas symbols and practices.



O Holy Night The Story Behind the Song

by Jeremy Smith, host of Morning Praise

You probably wouldn't think that one of the most beloved Christmas songs of all time was the work of two men who really didn't show that much interest in Christianity, but that was the case with "O Holy Night."

Placide Cappeau was a wine merchant in the small French town of Roquemare. He was also known for his stirring poetry. He was asked by the parish priest to write a Christmas poem to be read at a special service celebrating the repair of the church's organ. This request must have come as a surprise to Cappeau as he was an outspoken socialist who had been critical of the church. Using the gospel of Luke as his guide, Cappeau imagined witnessing the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. By the time he arrived in Paris, he had completed the poem "Cantique de Noel."

Cappeau decided that his "Cantique de Noel" was not just a poem, but a song that needed a musician's touch. Not musically inclined, he asked his musician friend, Adolphe Charles Adams, for help.

The son of a well-known classical musician, Adams had studied in the Paris Conservatoire and composed music for orchestras and ballets around the world. Adolphe, however, was Jewish and did not believe in Christ. Therefore, the words of "Cantique de Noel" represented a day he didn't celebrate and a man he did not view as the son of God. Nevertheless, the composer accepted the assignment and the song was performed just three weeks later at a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

The song has gone on to have a rich history throughout the church and is even historically significant because on Christmas Eve, 1906, Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian inventor, broadcast the very first AM radio program which included him playing a violin solo. The hymn he chose as the first musical piece to ever be broadcast via radio airwaves was "O Holy Night."

Mari profitan

Matt Redman
These Christmas
Lights

Listen for these and more great Christmas albums...



Lauren Daigle Behold: A Christmas Collection



Matthew West
Unto Us: A
Christmas Collection

Gifts in Memory and in Honor of...

A memorial gift is a meaningful way to honor someone at the time of death by recognizing that person's Christian faith and testimony. Similarly, an honorarium is a tangible way of honoring a living person's testimony. We are thankful for individuals listed below who choose to honor friends and loved ones through a gift that extends the message of Christ through Faith Radio's ministry. Gifts made as of September 27, 2016

Gifts In Memory of...

Paul Adams

John & Inez Evans, Andalusia

Bob Armstrong

Mac & Levonne McGee, Pike Road

Fletcher & Beatrice Barton

Ralph & Gloria Riley, Andalusia

Mr. Jerry G. Beasley

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Brown, Columbia, SC

Jerry & Glenda Beasley

Their Children & Grandchildren, Montgomery

Davis "Buddy" Bragg

Friends in Wren Bible Study Class, FBC Montgomery

Adam Philip Brooks

Mom - Jennifer Brooks, Wetumpka Larry Brown

Kevin & Lana Spivey, Clayton

Maudine Bulger

Frank & Linda Plaster, Autaugaville

Carol Burch's Sister "Dot"

Margaret Rogers, Wetumpka Mary Jule Burleson

Dorothy Hawthorne, Montgomery

Mrs. Tom (Hilda) Butts Rev. Leonard & Mrs. Carlyn

Howell, Prattville **Charles Larry Crews**

Jan Knight, Millbrook

Dezmond Davidson

Paulann Moorer, Georgiana

Mary McKenzie Dease Jo Ann Knox, Andalusia

Mike Dixon Jr.

Kevin & Lana Spivey, Clayton John William Edward Evans

John & Inez Evans, Andalusia

Betty Faye Fatzinger

Dr. & Mrs. Gene Brown, Montgomery

Paul & Katherine Johnson, Montgomery

Marcella Foster

Paul & Katherine Johnson, Montgomery

Dick Gamma

Jackie Butler, Montgomery

Mrs. Doris Hall

Geraldine Cole, Deatsville

Mrs. Ouida Hall Mrs. Nita F. Hall. Eclectic

14

Rodney Harvey

Geraldine Cole. Deatsville

John Wilson Howard, III

Mrs. Ann S. Howard, Prattville

Kathy, Kathryn & Micah Kelley Ben Kelley, Montgomery

Virginia S. Kammerer

Byron & Linda Golden, Wetumpka Gay Lane

Phil & Lauri Mitchell, Mathews

Jimmy Marvel Mr. & Mrs. Charles Knight,

Millbrook Raymond Mathis, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Knight, Millbrook

Frances McGuire

Margaret Rogers, Wetumpka

Eldon Blair Miller

Friends in Wren Bible Study Class, FBC Montgomery Ladies Bible Study,

Mr. Ken Morgan

FBC Montgomery Geraldine Cole, Deatsville

Allen Parker

Mr. Jimmy Peavy & Ms. Belle G. Peavy, Georgiana

Janine N. Parmelee

Luke H. Parmelee, Columbus, OH

Roland Pond

Dr. and Mrs. Rick Dobbs, Montgomery

Jamie Pouncey

Ms. Belle G. Peavy & Jimmy Peavy, Georgiana

Darrel Rader

Mr. & Mrs. Lothar Zell, Montgomery

Anne Inez Rogers

Sherril Bird, Tallassee

Elaine Roth

Frank & Sharon Marsh, Pike Road

David Rushton

W. Greg Jones II, Dadeville

Mr. Pete Russell

Dr. & Mrs. Gene Brown, Montgomery

John Seale

Dr. & Mrs. Gene Brown, Montgomery

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Cindy Smith

Charlotte & Gene Brown, Montgomery

Mrs. Connie Smith

Mac & Levonne McGee, Pike Road

Mr. Henry Steindorff

Slade & Alissa Parrish, Pike Road Paul & Katherine Johnson, Montgomery

Mac & Levonne McGee, Pike Road

Rev. Harry Stewart

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Culver, Jr., Wetumpka

Ann Thorpe Stuart

John and Teresa Stanley, Montgomery

Coach John Tatum

Billy and Gisele Echols, Wetumpka Gladys Terrell

Harold & Janice Terrell, Deatsville

Thomas Oneal Till Mr. and Mrs. Warren Gene Johnson, Gulf Breeze, FL

Ercvl Vidrine

Chris & Sherril Bird, Tallassee

Derrick L. Walker

Iolinda H. Walker, Dothan

Edna Bragg Watters

Geoffrey & Ramona Henson, Montgomery

Gifts In Honor of...

Montgomery

John Ashworth

Montgomery

Donica Knight, Millbrook

Bea Bailey

Jimmy & Peggy Bazzell

Bill & Gailya Phelps, Prattville

Neal & Gwen Westbrook,

Montgomery

Laurie & Ben Barnett, Prattville

First Baptist Church-Prattville

Gifts in Honor of... (continued)

Virginia M. Collier

Winford H. Collier, Deatsville

Bob Crittenden

Ellie Wade Ficken, Montgomery

Betty & Dave Davis

John & Inez Evans, Andalusia Mitzi Holladay

Ronnie Holladay, Tyler

Billy & Camilla Irvin Ronnie Holladay, Tyler

Billy Irvin & Staff

Mae Irvin Fain, Montgomery

Jesus Christ our Savior

Carol & Sherrill, Notasulga Officers and Staff -

Opelika Police Dept Stephanie Gray, Opelika

Chief Paul Register, Officers & Staff - Auburn Police Div.

Stephanie Gray, Opelika Scott Rogers

Neal & Gwen Westbrook, Montgomery

Teri Villar Schweers and Family Don & Kristen Stephens, Opelika John & Teresa Stanley Eddie & Karen Reinhardt.

Pike Road

Ken Webb & Katherine Jackson Alissa & Slade Parrish, Pike Road Mrs. Ginger Espy Page,

Montgomery

Stephanie Westbrook

Neal & Gwen Westbrook, Montgomery

Jay & Mary Ruth Wolf

Mae Irvin, Montgomery



Giving is what Christmas is all about. God started the giving tradition when He gave the gift of His Son -agift of love wrapped in human flesh and tied securely with His promises. John 3:16 tells us that the motive for that gift was love - "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." At Christmas, we celebrate that gift by giving gifts to those we love. We also celebrate the fact that the Gift would become the Giver, when Jesus, motivated by love, gave His life for us.

Because we are the recipients of so many gifts, we also should be givers. We give the gift of our time when we sit at the bedside of a loved one or patiently comfort the cries of a friend. We give the gift of the gospel when we witness to a coworker. We give the gift of our talents when we serve faithfully in our church or work hard at our job. And we give the gift of our financial resources when we support ministries that share the love of Christ.

Faith Radio is blessed to have many listeners who partner with us in our mission of sharing the love of Christ throughout our area. When you give financially to Faith Radio, you help share the Gospel with your community, give encouraging words to families, and help believers worship through song. You are part of a powerful ministry that is impacting people all across the globe.

Will you partner with us this Christmas season? If you have not yet joined us as a ministry partner, we encourage you to come alongside us and give a Christmas gift that will change lives for Jesus Christ. Faith Radio is helping strengthen your community and is sharing the gift of Christmas all year long. Will you join us?

Rev. Chuck Ashley

Col. & Mrs. William M. McCrary,

Col. & Mrs. William M. McCrary,

Ahna Bagget

Jan Knight, Millbrook

Cindy Bean

Melissa Carlisle

Rev. Travis Coleman,

Reginald Strickland, Prattville



WLBF 89.1 Montgomery
WSTF 91.5 Andalusia
WDYF 90.3 Dothan • 91.9 FM Eufaula
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