



THE CORNERSTONE

December 2016



# SLBC Christmas Happenings!

**Secret Sister Reveal!**

**Saturday, December 3**

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**



**SLBC Ladies Christmas  
Soup and Salad**

**Sunday December 11,**

**5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Sign-up Sheets in The Foyer**



**Gingerbread House  
Contest**

**Wednesday, December 14th**

**Meal at 6:00 pm**

**The Gingerbread**

**Houses will be provided. You will  
need to bring your base and any  
decoration you want to use.**

**Everyone is invited!**



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Saturday December 24th**

**6:00 pm**

**Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday December 25th**

**There will be only one Service with  
Junior Church**

**10:00 am**

## Missions for the Month



### Village Ministries International Our Newest Supported Mission's Organization

#### What we do

VMI has a dual strategy in its outreach. One aspect is evangelism through conducting Vacation Bible Schools, young adult camps, and baseball camps. These and other methods are all performed in various outposts throughout the world. Through these different activities not only are young people reached but their parents as well. Local pastors are then enlisted to do follow up with the families. Additionally, VMI distributes gospel coins, on behalf of Operation Grace, to believers to enhance their personal one-on-one evangelism efforts.

VMI's second aspect is to train rural pastors so they may go and teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). This is accomplished through several different models that VMI has utilized since its inception. Joining with its partnering missionaries, two or three day conferences are hosted to bring rural pastors to a centralized city and conduct training seminars that begin in the morning, and last into the night. Those who attend agree to go and teach others God's truth. Along with these seminars our partner missionaries often facilitate weekly study classes for a brief period of time to train pastors and Christian workers. Additionally, some of these local missionaries host a training center to selected individuals for an extended period of time to gain an even deeper knowledge of the Word.

In this dual strategy, short-term mission teams are infused. They not only encourage the local ministry in that area, but provide an opportunity for those who have a heart for sharing the Gospel and teaching God's Word to get involved.

All of our resources are freely given to "equip the saints for the work of service, to build up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:12



## Pastor's Corner



Andy Woods—Pastor

### DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, PART 2

In this series of articles, we are exploring a very important Bible prophecy called Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, which is found in Daniel 9:24-27. In the prior installment, we explained the background of the giving of this prophecy. With this background information in mind, we will now turn our attention to a textual analysis of Daniel 9:24-27. As we study this prophecy, we will break the prophecy down into ten manageable facts. If the reader can track with me through the presentation of these ten facts, concepts, or ideas, he will develop a very clear understanding of the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. In turn, he will be rewarded by the Holy Spirit in terms of having not only greater confidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word, he will also obtain a blueprint or timeline for understanding that all end time events predicted in the Bible will ultimately come to pass. Every new fact that I introduce will build on the prior facts. Fact number 1 being the most important because fact 2 will build on fact 1, as will each successive fact in this presentation. Thus, fact 3 will build on facts 1 and 2, and so forth right through my list of ten.

### Fact # 1: The Prophecy Concerns the Nation of Israel and the City of Jerusalem

Let us now note fact number one. This initial fact is critical to understand. The focus of the prophecy, as stated in Daniel 9:24, is upon the Jews and Jerusalem. Daniel 9:24 says this, "Seventy weeks have been decreed *for your people and your holy city*" (italics added). In other words, the Seventy Weeks Prophecy is directed towards Daniel, Daniel's people, and Daniel's city. Who are Daniel's people and what is his city? Although Daniel was a captive in Babylon at this time this prophecy was given, Daniel remained a Hebrew. So, the whole prophecy pertains specifically to the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. In other words, the Seventy Weeks Prophecy is not a prophecy about the church. Many people seek to read their own local church into this prophecy. Yet, that is not what the specific language of the prophecy indicates. Furthermore, it is not a prophecy about the panorama of world history. Rather, this prophecy furnishes a specific time clock that pertains exclusively to the nation of Israel.

Notice the following quote from a commentary on Daniel by a scholar named Robert Culver. He gets this point across quite clearly when he says, "Let the Postmillennial and Amillennial commentators look long and steadily at this fact. This is a prophecy for Daniel's people and Daniel's city. No alchemy of Origenistic spiritualizing interpretation can change that." The Postmillennial and Amillennial commentators that Culver mentions are those who seek to argue that the prophecy is somehow being fulfilled now in the life of the church today. However, when people argue this theological position, they miss the first and most important detail of the prophecy. The language of the prophecy will not allow it to find any of its fulfillment in the present Church Age for the simple reason that the opening verse assigns the prophecy specifically to the nation of Israel rather than the Church. The Church is not the nation of Israel. While the name Israel is found seventy-three times in the New Testament, never once is the term "Israel" used as a synonym for the Church. The term "Israel" throughout the New Testament and the Old Testament always refers to the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Sometimes the designation "Israel" refers to this lineage in faith and other times it refers to this lineage in unbelief. However, never does the term refer to the

Gentiles or even to a mixed audience consisting of both Jews and Gentiles. In the Bible "Israel" always means "Israel." Therefore, when Daniel 9:24 anchors the prophecy to Daniel's people and city, the contents of the prophecy should not be confused with God's present work in and through the church.

What does Culver mean through his use of the expression "Origenistic spiritualizing"? He is referring to a method of interpretation largely popularized in Alexandria, Egypt that refused to interpret Bible prophecy in a literal manner. Instead, the plain language of the text was merely used as a vehicle to usher in a higher spiritual, mystical, or symbolic meaning. This higher spiritual meaning was not found within the text and was only clear to the text's spiritualizing interpreter. Origen (A.D. 184–254) and later Augustine (A.D. 354–430) are largely responsible for introducing this flawed hermeneutical methodology into the early church. This method of interpretation was rejected by the Protestant Reformers since it involved reading foreign ideas into the biblical text (eisegesis) rather than drawing out the meaning that the text naturally conveys (exegesis). Moreover, if the prophecies related to Christ's First Coming were all fulfilled literally and accurately (Isa. 53), then why would the Holy Spirit switch horses in mid-stream by allowing the prophecies related to Christ's Second Coming to be fulfilled in a largely symbolic, mystical, or allegorical sense?

Therefore, if we are committed to a literal approach to all of the Bible, including Bible prophecy, then we must acknowledge that this is a specific prophecy for Daniel's people and Daniel's city, not the church of Christ, not any Christian institution, and not even the United States of America. Rather, the prophecy is specifically related to the nation of Israel in general and the City of Jerusalem in particular. The plain language of Daniel 9:24 reveals this initial point with great clarity and specificity.

As obvious as this point might seem, many end up misinterpreting the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks for the simple reason that they ignore the plain reading of the text concerning to whom the prophecy relates. Following the Holy Spirit's plain language, and allowing the prophecy to relate exclusively to Israel is why I mention this as the first of my ten facts concerning how to rightly interpret the Seventy Weeks Prophecy. The remaining nine points that will be presented in this series simply build upon this initial point. A case in point of such involves the denial that the Rapture of the Church will take place before the Tribulation period begins. As will be explained later in this series, the final seven years of the prophecy represents the future Tribulation period (Dan. 9:27). Yet, how can the church be found anywhere in this future time period when the entire prophecy, including the prophecy's final seven years, concerns the nation of Israel (Dan. 9:24) and not the church? Thus, the inference becomes overwhelming that the church will be removed from the world before the Seventieth Week even begins. This perspective is accurate because all of the Seventy Weeks Prophecy, including the final seven years of the prophecy, exclusively concerns Israel and not the Church. All of this to say, theological error and confusion ultimately result when the interpreter fails to correctly comprehend that the prophecy concerns only Daniel's people and city.

(To Be Continued...)

Robert Culver, *Daniel and the Latter Days* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1977), 149.

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology*, rev. ed. (Tustin, CA: Ariel, 1994), 684-99.

Sadly, the Protestant Reformers applied the literal method of interpretation to most of the Bible and yet remained largely Origenistic in their interpretive approach to Bible prophecy.



# Ginger Bread Houses

Lots of fun and  
fellowship



The Competition  
Is fierce

On Wednesday December 14, 2016

SLBC will have their regular meal at 6:00 pm

Following the evening meal will begin building Ginger Bread Houses. The Ginger Bread Houses will be furnished, but you will need to bring your own disposable bases and any items you wish to use to decorate your Ginger Bread House.

For all age Groups





## Mission Trips

Evangelize, equip, and construct. These are the ministry outreaches of our short-term mission teams. Teams travel to four continents to facilitate the spread of God's kingdom.

**Our approach is to . . . Evangelize**, whether door to door, in villages, or conducting camps for all ages. There is no limit on how the Lord can use a willing heart to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Equip** those who want to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through training conferences, pastors and Christian workers learn the necessary tools to accurately study the Word of God. Those participating are given books to train others who seek to multiply disciples.

Construct through helping people better their environment while sharing the love of Christ. This is VMI's three fold approach to build up the Body of Christ through short-term missions. *Changing hearts, changing lives and changing communities. All for the glory of God.*

## Thanksgiving

### We are thankful for...

- **our missionaries' dedication and sacrifice.**
- **the completion of over 40 training conferences in Asia and Africa this year.**
- **the distribution of over 52,000 Bibles this year.**
- **your faithful prayers and support.**

## Prayer Requests

### Please pray for...

- our missionaries' health, safety, ministry, and support.
- the planning of next year's training conferences and Bible distribution.
- Christian ministries in India as the government continues to clamp down in an effort to impede their operation.
- your prayerful consideration of participating in a mission trip next year.

## Scripture for the Month: Isaiah 9:6



For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

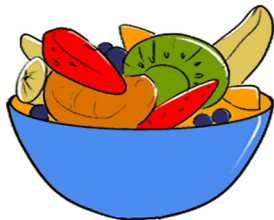


## SLBC Ladies Christmas Soup & Salad



Sunday, December 11, 2016  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All ladies are invited to join us as we celebrate the holiday season.



Food, Fellowship,  
Song and Fun awaits!  
Don't miss out!



Let us know if you will attend and what you will bring to share.

Sign up in the foyer beginning November 20, 2016

*The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at: [earlbudc@att.net](mailto:earlbudc@att.net) or send information to Carol Henry at [Carol@SLBC.org](mailto:Carol@SLBC.org)*