



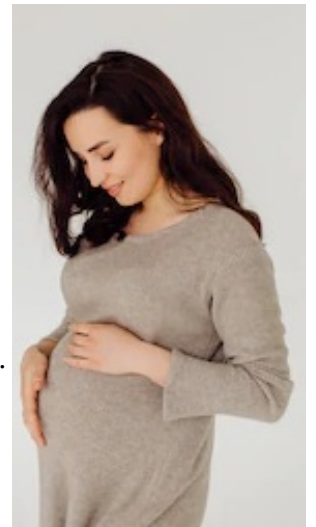
# *The Challenge of Christmas...*

When Father God began to initiate His plan to send His Son Jesus Christ into our world to redeem us from our sinful fallen lives, many challenges to His plan were yet unresolved.

*“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His...”* 2 Chronicles 16:9 (Scriptures quoted from New American Standard Bible)

## **Would God Find the Right Woman Who...?**

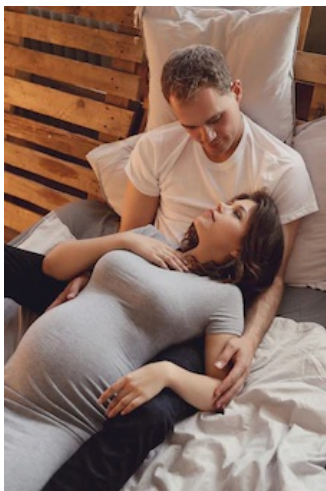
- Is of good moral character...
- Is a virgin and morally pure...
- Has a growing faithful relationship with God...
- Has a mother’s heart even before having a child...
- Is willing to trust God to overcome her fears of the unknown...
- Is attentive to the Holy Spirit enough to listen and understand God’s message...
- After receiving the message she would faithfully trust and obey...
- Is willing to participate in an event that has never happened before in all history...
- Is willing to be impregnated with a baby thru a strange and unusual way...
- Is willing to give birth to and raise a child from a different father...
- Is willing to suffer scorn from her family, friends and society...
- Is willing to carry the label of whore her entire life...
- Is willing, if rejected by Joseph, to raise the child alone without a husband...



Picture from Freepik.com

*The angel said to her, **“Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. Mary said to the angel, **“How can this be, since I am a virgin?”** The angel answered and said to her, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, **“Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”**** Luke 1:30,31,34,35,38***

## **Would God Find the Right Man Who...?**



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- Is of righteous moral character with integrity, and is morally pure...
- His ideal of righteousness is about helping others...
  - not just protecting himself or his reputation...
- Is humble in spirit and is actively seeking God’s will for his life...
- Has a father’s heart even for a child who is not his...
- Is willing to embrace family responsibilities before he planned to...
- Is willing to trust God and this woman in this extremely unusual pregnancy...
- Is attentive to the Holy Spirit to listen and understand God’s message...
- After receiving the message he will faithfully trust and obey...
- Is willing to raise a child from a different father...
- Is willing to share the shame his wife may experience from family, friends, society.
- He trusts this woman enough to believe her story, love, and marry her...
- He is willing to wait for sexual intimacy until after the baby is born...

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother **Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child** [i.e.; at least 3-5 months pregnant] **by the Holy Spirit.** And Joseph her husband, **being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”** And **Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.**” Matthew 1:18-25*

## Still Today, The Challenge of Christmas Remains...

“**Right from the beginning God's love has reached**, and from the beginning man has refused to understand. But love went on reaching, offering itself:

*Love offered the eternal... we wanted the immediate.  
Love offered deep joy... we wanted thrills.  
Love offered freedom ... we wanted license.  
Love offered communion with God Himself ...  
we wanted to worship at the shrine of our own minds.  
Love offered peace... we wanted approval for our wars.*



**Even yet, love went on reaching.** And still today, after two thousand years, patiently, lovingly, Christ is reaching out to us today. Right through the chaos of our world, through the confusion of our minds. He is reaching ... longing to share with us ... the very being of God.

**His love still is longing, His love still is reaching**, right past the shackles of my mind. *And the Word of the Father became Mary's little Son.* And His love reached all the way to where I was.”

Poem “His Love ... Reaching” by Gloria Gaither. Copyright © 1975 William J. Gaither.

## The challenge to The Challenge of Christmas...

ACCORDING TO A LEGEND Satan and his demons were having a Christmas party. As the demonic guests were departing, one grinned and said to Satan, "Merry Christmas, your majesty." At that, Satan replied with a growl, "Yes, keep it merry. If they ever get serious about it, we'll all be in trouble." Well, get serious about it. It is the birth of the Baby. It is the coming of God. It is the intervention of God's presence among men.



## The Challenge of Christmas Provides...

**"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,"** which translated means, **"GOD WITH US."** Matt 1:23

## Recent Personal Challenges In Our Lives

November 13, Richard experienced eight TIA's (used to be called mini-strokes) in a 36 hour period. Thou most were short and only lasted a few minutes or an hour, one TIA lasted 10 hours. During that time a MRI showed no damage or brain injury. Richard had no bleeding in the brain and no blocked arteries. The good news is that Richard has been cleared to return to normal activities and has had no discernable aftereffects from the TIA's. Carla and the whole family were wonderfully supportive and comforting. During the three days in the hospital Richard had complete peace, did not have any fear and had fun “flirting” with the nurses. Thank you for the thousands of prayers that carried us thru. Richard now takes some medications for the first time in his life. Bless God for health!!

Carla recently had the RSV virus and developed mild pneumonia but has recovered and is doing well. Bless God, everyone in the family is healthy now. Lynnette and Rosemarie are on a weekend cruise together that Lynnette's work provided to all the employees as a bonus. Ruth and Ryan and Dianne and Grant are each very busy building their respective businesses and enjoying success.

## Ministry Update

The medical crisis slowed down ministry for about 10 days. Lay Institute for Biblical Counseling classes are continuing on track and counseling appointments are scheduled as normal. **Thank you for your prayers and continued financial support of our ministry.** The future is bright. We hope next year to again be able to do some training overseas as God opens opportunities and the financial supply to do so.

**Thank You and May You Have a God Blessed Christmas!!!**

*Richard + Carla Patzke*

**P.S. A Challenge for Christmas:** Please consider an extra end of the year gift to Christian Ministry Concepts to help the Walking Wounded. Your investment is resulting in the training of “counselors” in churches and the healing of personal wounds and marriages in the lives of people. (Note: Graphics from Freepik.com).