

Christmas Play 2009!!

WE are excited to announce that the children of New Covenant, ages 6-15 will be performing a Christmas Play for you once again.

The play will be held in the main sanctuary at New Covenant Fellowship Church on Friday December 18th, or Sunday Night, December 20th. We will let you the exact date in due time.

We encourage you to invite your friends and family to come and participate. We would also like to invite our out of town families to come and spend Christmas with us here at New Covenant, we will be having our annual Candle Light Service. Call the office for specific dates and times.

Please pray for the children as they prepare for the play.



Verse of the Month

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10



Bible

Verse

Challenge

Read over the verses above and think about what they are saying. Write out a detailed explanation of what the verses mean and also what they mean to you personally. Give the explanation to Miss Christian and after she has read over it she will let you know how well you did. Some explanations may appear in next month's newsletter.

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved, a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing the Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

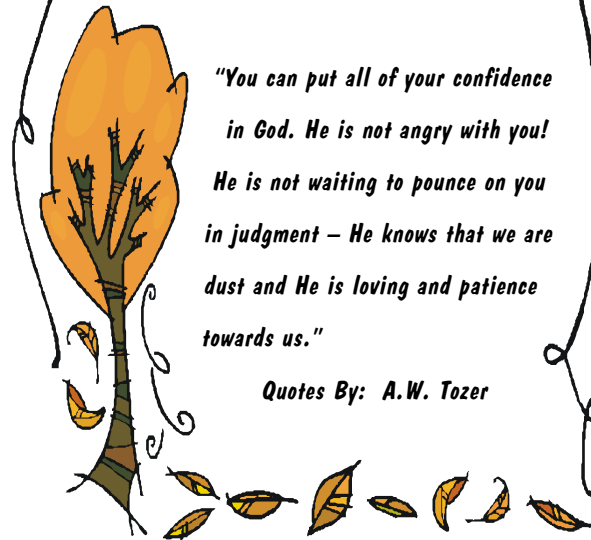
Knowing Jesus

"We pursue God because, and only because He has first put an urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit."

"God can be known satisfactorily only as we devote time to Him."

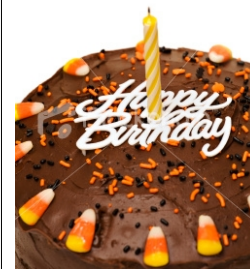
"You can put all of your confidence in God. He is not angry with you! He is not waiting to pounce on you in judgment – He knows that we are dust and He is loving and patience towards us."

Quotes By: A.W. Tozer



BIRTHDAYS & SPECIAL EVENTS IN

October



- 13th - Tiffany Batts
- 14th - Joshua Cecala
- 24th - Wendy Smith
- 28th - Dalton Smith
- 29th - Schuyler Ives

NCO Kids Monthly News

October 2009
Cover Story

TIM MCILWRATH

My name is Tim McIlwrath and I live in Ballynahinch, Northern Ireland. I'm married to Nicky and we have three wonderful sons, Jack, age 10, Luke age 5, and Caleb age 4. I was raised in a Christian home in Belfast. It is one of the greatest privileges in life to be nourished from a young age in the word of God. My father pioneered a work for the Lord when I was 11 years old. As I developed as a teenager and the world around became more attractive, I became ashamed of my Godly upbringing. The bible says: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. James 1:14.

In my early teens I desired the world. I looked at school friends and young people I grew up with and saw the fun they seemed to have. I began to detest the things of God, I was embarrassed in front of friends when others would mock my father, and call me the 'preachers son.' I



was determined to go into the world and seek happiness and fun that I believed so many enjoyed. I still attended church in those years from 13-16, but in my heart I was far from God. It is a terrible reality today that many sit in the pews in churches lost and far from God. This is a great tragedy today. Many young believing the lie of the devil, they are missing out on something.

The devil's shop window is filled with his prize possessions- The sons and daughters of preachers. The cup of rebellion was full, and at the age of about 15, I began experimenting with the usual vices of the world. Alcohol, smoking, discos, criminality, all the pleasures of sin. At the time, it was wonderful, yet little did I realize, that sin would take me where I did not want to go. I left school and got a job with a company that would open doors for me to travel. The kingdom of darkness was opened fully to a young man searching for all the pleasures this world had to offer. Alcohol became a major hold in my life. Sin will take you where you do not want to go. We are never standing still. It is either on the upward path to glory, or the broad road of destruction to hell, and everlasting fire. Within a few years a young man had turned into an angry bitter monster. I became involved in many things for which now I hang my head in utter shame. Crime, financial ruin, looking at loosing my job, in trouble with police, in trouble with a terrorist group, and totally consumed with alcohol.

I was constantly living a life of abuse. It was no longer fun. I was rushed into hospital one Sunday morning. I had been drinking heavily for a number of days and began to become very unwell and had suffered internal bleeding. I was admitted to the hospital and was told after examination by a doctor that "if I did not stop drinking alcohol I would be dead by 25" Today I'm 36, living for Jesus, alive and well, Praise His name!

I left the hospital and started drinking again within a few days. I was a prisoner. Things became impossible. I had an opportunity to get a break and headed to London, looking for some relief to the trouble I was in. The gentleman who let me borrow his apartment was a Christian, a Jamaican living in London. I sat that first night, running from myself, running from God, yet at that moment as I sat on my bed, ready to put a cigarette to my mouth and a bottle of beer, something happened, I felt the convicting presence of Almighty God. I couldn't light the

cigarette, I couldn't place that bottle on my lips, and I was filled with fear. I had agreed to attend a house meeting, were about 20 young people had gathered. All Jamaican, all saved, all filled with the Holy Ghost. In the natural, I was asking myself "what are you doing here!" They began to sing, and they took it in turns in singing solo, passing it from one to the next. The song was:

*I'm free, Praise the Lord I'm Free
No longer bound, no more chains holding me
My soul is resting, it's just a blessing!
Praise the Lord, Hallelujah I'm Free!*

That night as the baton to sing was passed round, I sat in the corner, and realized, I could not sing that song. I was prisoner.

The next evening I went to their church. That night, was 12th September 1993. I sat in that meeting and I began to weep, broken, a mess, the journey for pleasure, had ended in total darkness and death. The lady that stood at the front stopped the meeting and said "Young man, tonight God wants to save you!"

I don't know how, but I came from where I sat and fell on the floor of that church and cried out to God for mercy. How marvelous, How wonderful, the delivering, saving and keeping power of Almighty God. Jesus sets the prisoner free. That night Jesus Christ wonderfully saved me! I could write for a very long time and tell of His many blessings. Every area of my life that had been ruined by sin, He wonderfully intervened and delivered me. I went to Bible College for a year, and then soon after that met Nicky, who would become my wife within a year! This has truly been the greatest blessing that God has given me. She was saved from a little girl and God has blessed me with such a Godly wife. We served God in India for a year. That was training ground for where we are today. There have been many disappointments on the journey, many failures, but never can I say, that Jesus has failed us and He has never been a disappointment.

We longed for so much more in our experience with the Lord. At one time in our walk we became very frustrated with what church had become, and also, what we had become. We knew there was more, but busy and carnal lives robbed us of that intimacy with Jesus. How merciful is our God? In 2002 an American preacher arrived at our church. I had become a skeptic. I had come to an awful place were I

was disillusioned with church, man and myself. That night as I sat in church, waiting to hear what this man would say- God began again to speak to Nicky and myself, The preacher was Pastor BH Clendennen, how God used this man of God to impact our lives like never before. That night we threw all on the altar and cried out to God. That He would take us and use us for His glory. I could not tell you of the impact brother Clendennen has been and how God has mightily used Him to bring a wonderful change in our lives. What a blessing this journey has been. God called us in 2005 to plant a work in Ballynahinch. God has been so good. The battles, have been unbelievable, and yet as we look back on our short paths, we can truly see that it HE IS FAITHFUL. Its all for Jesus and to Jesus be all the Glory! I know that God wants to birth a true revival in our land. We have faced the forces of hell in proclaiming this wonderful gospel. We are looking to God, as we stand on our lental patch, that He will wrought a great victory in Ireland!

It was also a great privilege for us to have Pastor and Sister Kirby and Christian with us this year. What an honor to sit under a passionate ministry and be truly blessed. We appreciate you all very much and the prayers of the saints. We are in the last days, but these times have given us a wonderful opportunity to walk with our wonderful Savior. For any one reading this short testimony I believe that God is calling His people to a place of intimacy, to return to our first love, Jesus Christ. Acts 3:19

Why We Don't Believe in

HALLOWEEN?



It originated in Ireland, and is said to be among the world's oldest holidays. The simple history of Halloween - it has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain (celebration of the end of the harvest season in Gaelic culture). Traditionally, the festival was a time that was used by the ancient pagans to take stock of their supplies and slaughter livestock for winter storage. The ancient Gaels believed that on October 31, the boundary between the living and the dead dissolved, and the dead become dangerous for the living by causing problems

such as sickness (plague) or damaged crops. The celebration of Samhain would frequently involve bonfires, upon which the bones of slaughtered livestock were thrown; costumes and masks were also worn in an attempt to mimic the evil spirits or placate them.

History of Halloween in America

Halloween did not become a holiday in the United States until the 19th century. Strict Christian traditions and lifestyles prevented this, and American almanacs of the late 18th and early 19th centuries don't include Halloween in their lists of holidays. The trans-Atlantic migration of almost 2 million Irish in the mid-1850s finally brought Halloween to the United States. Scottish emigration, primarily after 1870, also brought the Scottish version of Halloween. By the mid-1900s, Halloween had become engrained in the fabric of American society. From a commercial perspective, Halloween is now the United States' second most popular holiday (after Christmas).

Relevant scripture on Halloween and Christians:

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

"Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."

James 1:27

"Keep oneself from being polluted by the world"

3 John 1:11

"Do not imitate what is evil"

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

"Do not learn to imitate detestable ways, including spiritists, sorcerers and witchcraft."

Ephesians 5:11-12

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness" / "live as children of light."

1 Corinthians 10:31

"Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God"

Ephesians 6:11-18

"Take your stand against the devil's schemes."