

PG VOICE

A Publication of Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church 7545 S. Vincennes Ave. – Chicago, IL 60620

Winter Issue 2011

**Pleasant Green Missionary
Baptist Church**

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The King of Glory



On Sunday, December 11, 2011 the Pleasant Green Choir celebrated the birth of Christ in song. The theme was “The King of Glory.” Rightly befitting because the King is who we wanted to please and usher into our congregation. For this is the season to honor Him, Jesus the Christ, who is worthy of all the praise and glory. The church was packed with family and friends ready to enjoy an evening of high praise and they weren’t disappointed.

The guest conductor Martin Woods, who has worked with the choir for many months is to be commended on a job well done. The choir sang joyous songs of praise and the sound was outstanding.

The Praise Leaders were also featured center stage and they truly sang out of their souls. Our special guest, the Lowe family ministered to us giving praise to Almighty God for his rich benefits toward them in replacing all their worldly goods and even more in the recent loss of their home due to a fire.

Thank you Pleasant Green family for your continued love and support.

The Editor's Pen

By: Anita Winston

In Pastor Matthews' sermon on December 4, 2011, he spoke of how Peter denied Christ. He then pointed out a very interesting point. Peter verbally denied Christ however we as Christians have our own form of denial.

On Sundays while we are in church we eagerly lift our hands in praise. We shout high praise unto God. But then on Monday when someone says something unkind or someone cuts you off in traffic you call them everything but a child of God. That in itself is a denial of God.

In a moment of anger the idea of "turning the other cheek" is totally forgotten. Everything Christ-like is out the window, your mouth opens and out comes the most unchristian-like words.

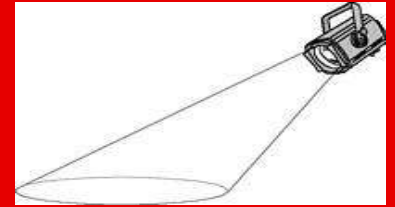
Can you imagine what Christ feels at that point? Here is one who professes to love Christ but by your actions you deny him – remember Peter proclaimed to love Christ and yet three times he denied knowing Him.

As Pastor Matthews put it we're not walking the walk we talk. It's easy to be Christ-like until the world and its problems comes calling. But here's the challenge, the next time a situation get you to the point you are ready to "lay down your religion, remember how God laid down his life for you. Your religion and your faith is NOT something you can pick up and lay down when you choose. You are either on the Lord's side or you are not. You can't be a Christian when it suits you. And remember that every time you have an unchristian attitude you crucify Christ all over again. And I don't know about you but I really don't want to have to stand before Christ on judgment day and explain why I denied Him. So right now let's remember that old saying and before we reach for anger or anything else that's unchristian, ask yourself "What Would Jesus Do (WWJD)?"

We are about to enter into the year 2012 and if God grants you the opportunity to see the New Year don't waste it. Start it as you plan to continue, with praise on your lips and the joy of God in your heart. Reach out and help someone who has lost their way and above all let the world see and feel the Christ in you because this might be the only Christ they will ever see.

***Merry Christmas and have a
Happy New Year***

Spotlight:



Timothy Tyler Murphy a.k.a Tim

By Pamela McCray



50 years young, born in the month of September and raised on Chicago's south side. Timothy has 6 sisters and 3 brothers.

He attended Morgan Park H.S., class of 1980. Timothy also pursued his education at University of Houston, with a degree in Electronics.

Timothy united with Juanita Myles in Holy Matrimony on September 7, 2007. They have 2 children, Keanna and Andre.

On March 28, 2010, Timothy united with Pleasant Green as a candidate for baptism. Since becoming a member, he has participated in Fine Arts Ministry, Air Band. He was a member of the PG Soul Seekers singing group during our choir's presentation of the Air Band.

Timothy's hobbies are playing chess and mentoring children between the ages of 8-14 in basketball. The camp is located on the west side of Chicago, Homan Square Center.

Timothy is somewhat quiet and reserved, but he's someone you should know.

Congratulations to Sis. Verria Lee-Evans on her upcoming retirement from State government. Sis. Verria will retire from the Illinois Department of Employment Security on December 30, 2011 with 39 years and 8 months of continued service.

Way to Go Girl!!!!



Keeping food safe when planning and shopping

By: *Barbara Holyfield*

Never thaw turkey or meat on the kitchen counter--- (tips for safety)

- plan to shop for food last when running more than one errand.
- do not leave foods like milk, meats, or frozen foods out of the refrigerator or freezer for longer than two hours.
- when at the store, separate meats from vegetables and fruits in the shopping cart.
- make sure raw meat and poultry doesn't drip on vegetables and fruits or other food.
- check cans for leaks, bulges, rust or dents.
- make sure that the "safety buttons" on jars are still in the down position. (Jars of baby food have safety buttons).
- check the date on the food packages to make sure it is still fresh.
- Check to make sure that the seals on packages are still intact.
- make sure refrigerated foods are cold to the touch and frozen food are frozen solid.
- take food home right away and store it quickly and properly.
- put refrigerated and frozen foods away first.

Here is a tasty recipe for leftovers

Turkey-Broccoli Casserole

- 4 ounces (about 3 cups) noodles, uncooked
- 1 package (10oz) frozen chopped broccoli
- 2 tablespoons margarine
- 2 tablespoons flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup shredded low fat cheddar cheese
- 3 cups chopped cooked turkey

1. cook noodles as directed on package, drain.
2. melt margarine and stir in flour and seasonings.
3. add milk slowly; cook, stirring constantly, until thickened.

4. remove from heat; add cheese and stir until melted.
5. layer noodles, broccoli and then the turkey in 8x8-inch baking dish.
6. pour cheese sauce over layers.
7. bake, uncovered at 350° for about 25 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Nutritional facts (per serving)-calories 300-fat 8g-calories from fat 70-sodium 450mg-total

Christian Business Exchange

This section of the PG Voice is dedicated to the purpose of informing our readers of individuals in business and those possessing creative talents.

Why not give us your information and have your business listed in the PG Voice today? All contributions will be greatly appreciated and proceeds will go toward defraying the cost of future publications of the Voice. Don't forget to mark your envelop — it's just that easy.

Avon

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Pamela McCray (773) 840-3367

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Sanicole

Director, Video Editor, CEO

Email: Overxposedproductions@gmail.com

Sandrel Young (773) 726-3913

Sing while you drive....

Submitted by Charlie Mae Price

At 45 miles per hour, sing —
“Highways Are Happy Ways”

At 55 miles, sing —
“I’m But a Stranger Here, Heaven Is My Home”

At 65 miles, sing —
“Nearer, My God To Thee”

At 75 miles, sing —
“When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I’LL Be There”

At 85 miles, sing —
“Lord I’m Coming Home”

Before you increase your speed, be sure you are on the right road.

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.
Matthew 7:13-14

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord. Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:19-20

HOLY HUMOR

Submitted by: Gwendolyn Summers

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means? The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

On the Outside Looking IN....

By: Anita Winston

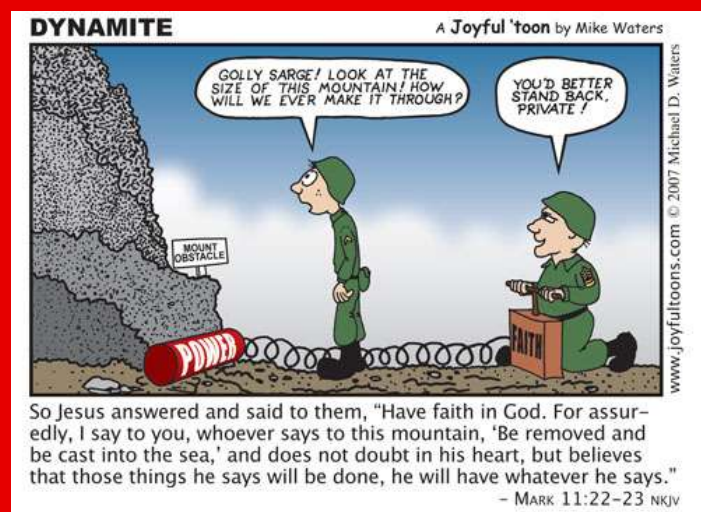
This piece is all about the Marriage Ministry. Now I know you're wondering why a single woman is writing this but the title says it all. As I hear more and more about the marriage ministry I feel like a child with my nose pressed up against the candy store window. All the goodies are there and the married couples are having a wonderful time. I want to applaud the leaders Deacon Warren and Sis. Monique Jones on a job well done. What a wonderful year. The ministry reaches out to the couples of Pleasant Green and is an excellent outreach tool.

Some of the activities for 2011 included:

- A Valentine's Day Dinner
- A couples' five week Workshop
- A bowling outing
- A night cruising on the lake
- And a date night movie

Each outing the husbands were encouraged to invite their wives "out on a date". How cute is that.

So in closing I just want to say if you are a married couple you should really check out this ministry. And if you are a single person like me, let's just keep smiling and wishing them much success and happiness.

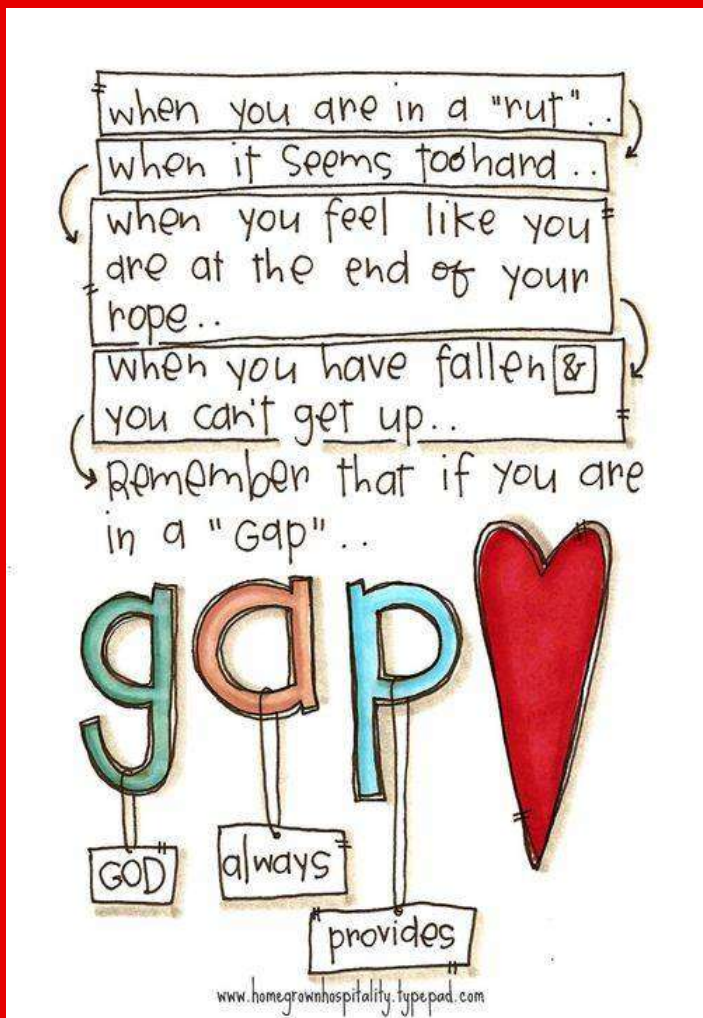


My Prayer

Submitted by: Pam McCray

Heavenly Father; I come to you as humble as I know how. I confess my sins, those known and unknown. Lord, you know that I am not perfect and I fall short every day of my life. I just want to take time out to say Thank You. Thank You for your Mercy.

I have more bills than money, but thank you for my home, car, food, life and everything I do have. I realize that life is full of trials and tribulations, but thank you for not putting more on me that I can bear. The next time you get ready to **complain, tell the devil that you are a blessed child of God.** By doing this you will have more to be thankful of than to worry about. We must go through the storm to appreciate the sunshine.



SAFETY 1ST

By: Carmencia Harris

WARNING FROM POLICE

This is the new thing these days with people out of work and needing cash. Beware, it's headed our way. Just last weekend on Friday night we parked in a public parking area. As we drove away I noticed a sticker on the rear window of the car. When I took it off after I got home, it was a receipt for gas. Luckily my friend told me not to stop as it could be someone waiting for me to get out of the car. Then we received this email yesterday:

WARNING FROM POLICE

THIS APPLIES TO BOTH WOMEN AND MEN
BEWARE OF PAPER ON THE BACK WINDOW OF YOUR VEHICLE--NEW WAY TO DO CARJACKINGS (NOT A JOKE)

Heads up everyone!

You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine and shift into reverse.

When you look into the rearview mirror to back out of your parking space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into park, unlock your doors, and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car that is when the carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. They practically mow you down as they speed off in your car.

And guess what, ladies? I bet your purse is still in the car. So now the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised!
BEWARE OF THIS NEW SCHEME THAT IS NOW BEING USED.

If you see a piece of paper stuck to your back window, just drive away. Remove the paper later. And be thankful that you read the e-mail. I hope you will forward this information to friends and family, especially to women. A purse contains all kinds of personal information and identification documents, and you certainly do NOT want this to fall into the wrong hands.

Chris's Hot Points

By: Christopher Watson

“May God Bless You with Love and Happiness”

What’s up, family! It is a pleasure and a blessing to be able to write these articles for my PG family. As men and women of God, we need to share our heart with those of the faith in many areas of life. We are truly blessed to have a pastor that believes the church is called to help the “whole man”. The church is one of, if not the most stable institution, in the African American community. It is where we gather to hear the divine Word of God, from men and women called by God, and are taught truths that free us from many bondages.

As the world continues to grow “wickeder and not wiser”, we must make sure that our foundation as believers is not eroded nor destroyed by compromise of our faith. “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”(Ps. 11:3) God’s word is the same yesterday, today and forevermore. We cannot change our message though some of our methods will change.

I have been in financial/insurance services for thirteen years. Through this I have learned sound investment brings stable communities and families. Pooling our resources and talents together will enable us to do great things as we grow spiritually, financially, educationally and physically healthy. We as a church family understand that this is our “Tools For Living”.

As this year come to a close I want to wish my Pleasant Green family much love and happiness. Ok, family I am going to leave you with this thought ...When you get, give.... When you learn, teach! As always you know where to find me just look up. (LOL)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

An Inspirational Poem

Author: Unknown
Submitted by: *Josie Hill*

You tell yourself---

You tell what you are, by the friends you seek
By the very manner in which you speak

By the way you enjoy your leisure time,
By the use you make of dollar and dime,

You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which your burdens bear,

By the kind of things at which you laugh,
By records you play on the phonograph

You tell what you are by the way you walk
By the things of which you delight to talk

By the manner in which you bear defeat
By so simple a thing as how you eat.

By the books you choose from the well fixed shelf,
In these ways and more you tell on yourself.

Remembering Our PG Family who have gone home to be with the Lord



“Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life.” KJV Revelations 2:10b

Spreading The

CHRISTmas Cheer

By: Minister Todd Campbell

IT'S A BOY! SIGN IN THE YARD
BALLOONS ON A MAILBOX
BULK MAIL WITH PHOTOGRAPHS
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT
PHONE CALLS to friends and relatives
CIGARS HANDED OUT WITH BLUE WRITINGS...

This is how almost every birth is celebrated in America. We take so much time to prepare for that moment in time when a new baby boy or girl will breathe his/her own first breath. What a beautiful time and moment to see God's creation come into a world ruled by Him. Everyone makes sure that everything is ready for the baby to come. We even have baby showers where we buy clothes for a being that has not come to its own yet.

Unfortunately, this wasn't the case for Jesus. Jesus was born in a manger but there were no major celebrations, but there was some major hunting for a child that would soon grow and overthrow the king. Christ did not receive the best when he was born and because he did not receive the best it always reminds me of His ministry that was to come. Christ said, "...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mat. 20:28). Christ came into the world, but no one acknowledged him, except the Shepherds and the wise men.

I come to you with this question, "have we continued to ignore Christ and his mighty hand?" We are in a position to share the Christmas cheer, but are we really sharing the Christmas cheer? Someone may reply, "yes Todd, I just got the decorations from the basement and I'm putting them up now. I've been wearing my Santa's hat to work every day, and I sing Christmas songs all throughout the day for all to hear. Oh, let's not forget my Christmas party that I throw every year." This is probably the most typical answer.

I'm not talking about spreading the "American" Christmas cheer. I'm talking about spreading the CHRISTmas cheer. It is something that should be spread everyday of the year, but it is this time where you can capture many more customers. People are expecting this CHRISTmas cheer. I believe that every person is longing for it but do not know where to look.

Let us stop ignoring Jesus and continue to Evangelize as our Pastor has taught us to do during the summer events and in his sermons. Just like a store, materials are being sold throughout the entire year, but it is on a holiday, like Christmas, where people are now really looking for the items that were always there but they did not pay attention to. Let's do our job and bring it to their attention. Stop ignoring Christ and spread a little CHRISTmas cheer. I charge you to invite at least 5 people to any of our worship services before December is over. Christ is Calling and he is watching. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Hymnology

By Elaine Pheloan

O Come O Come Emmanuel

"Behold the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" Matthew 1:23

The origins of this hymn date back to medieval times. In the 1800's a series of Latin hymns were sung each day during Christmas Vespers from December 17 to 23. Each of these hymns began with a word that began with "O". John Mason Neale wove together segments of this song which was published in 1851.

Neale was born in London on January 24, 1818, the son of an evangelical Anglican clergyman. He attended Cambridge University and proved to be a brilliant student and prize-winning poet. In 1841 he was ordained into the Anglican ministry. He was later appointed as director of Sackville College, a home for the elderly. Neale was compassionate and had a heart for the elderly.

Neale was a traditionalist and disliked some of the hymns that had been written by others. He worked hard to translate many of the ancient Greek and Latin hymns into English. O Come O Come Emmanuel is one such hymn that has been translated by Neale.

*"O Come O Come Emmanuel, and ransom
captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son
of God appear,
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel, Shall come to thee
O Israel."*

Safety Alert!

By: *Sis. Verria Lee-Evans*

Here's some reasons why we don't allow cell phones in operating areas, propylene oxide handling and storage area, propane, gas and diesel refueling areas.

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations.

In the first case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car!

And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that: Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes. Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition

Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boat, etc. Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, (i.e., solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc...)

To sum it up, here are the four rules for safe refueling:

- 1) Turn off engine
- 2) Don't smoke
- 3) Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling.

Bob Renkes of Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of 'static electricity' at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires.

His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.

- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started, as a result of static.
- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
- 8) Seventeen fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door **TOUCHING THE METAL**, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

As I mentioned earlier, The Petroleum Equipment Institute, along with several other companies now, are really trying to make the public aware of this danger.

I ask you to please send this information to ALL your family and friends, especially those who have kids in the car with them while pumping gas. If this were to happen to them, they may not be able to get the children out in time. Thanks for passing this along.

Congratulations!!!

Deacon Louis and Martha Lee

on your

60th *Wedding Anniversary*

December 25, 2011

*May God continue to bless your
union for many years to come.*



'The Real Reason for Christmas'

Submitted by: Verria Lee-Evans

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Read: Luke 2:4-19

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to

become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin



nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong."

[1 John 1:9](#)

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

***Jesus Is The Reason For The Season!
Rejoice!***

*If you have a concern or comment drop us a line. You don't even have to sign your name. Here is your chance to speak out and tell us what you think. Share your ideas.
Email me at winstonant@yahoo.com*

Join our PG Staff; we'd love to work with you!!!

*PG Voice Newsletter
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