

**OPENING THE GIFTS****A Sacrificial Gift**

December was a short but busy month and one highlight is the Christmas Store. Children pay their dimes to shop for gifts to give to their parents and siblings. One generous red head third grade girl decided to go through her coins and give her thirteen dimes to Cherry Street so that children who forgot or don't have any dimes may go shopping. When a child turns loose of their money it is a big sacrifice and this third grader's sacrifice was a gift of love!

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:16-18**

What are your actions saying?

**The Gift of Your Presence**

Some days we run short on help due to sickness or extra curricular school activities. One afternoon my cell phone was extra busy with staff sending text messages saying they will not be able to work. Each time the phone rang I cringed; a young lady from Royster asked why I cringed. I told her that each time it rang it meant someone was not going to be at work. She said "Oh!" and then a mischievous smile came across her face. Moments later my phone rang again and the text message read, "Hi I am here!" The young lady sent me the text and she was in the corner laughing as I looked at her. She gave me the gift of her presence and that text also reminded me to be thankful for what I have and not to worry about what I don't have.

God is like that, when things seems to hit all at once and we feel like we have to go it alone, God will remind us that he is there and that he will help us through the difficult times. Even if we don't have anything if we have God we have everything!

**The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8**

Isn't it time we count our blessings?

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## **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND DINNER**

The Family Christmas Program and Dinner was held on December 11 at the Good News Center of the First Baptist Church. A great time was had by all as an audience of 386 people was entertained by Cherry Street West who acted out the Christmas story and preformed talent acts such as the joyful noise of Amazing Grace. Amazing Grace was also witnessed in the kitchen as eight turkeys were cooked to feed the 386 people. Everyone had their fill with leftovers to spare! God also provided serving and clean-up help as numerous members from various churches from the community volunteered their time. The evening was capped off as a turkey or ham with a bag full of groceries was presented to each family. God's love and province was experienced that night! We thank you for your continued support which makes everything possible!

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. Ephesians 3:16-20

**Please be praying for our Family Night to be held Wednesday  
February 10 that searching souls will be touched for God's glory!**