

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## God Is Just A Prayer Away



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Heard on the following 50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday

WLW	6:30 A.M.	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OHIO
WRVA	7:04 A.M.	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
WHAS	7:30 A.M.	840 DIAL	LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
WIBC	7:30 A.M.	1070 DIAL	INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
WLW	8:00 A.M.	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OHIO
WOAI	9:30 P.M.	1200 DIAL	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
WRVA	9:30 P.M.	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
KXEL	10:30 P.M.	1540 DIAL	WATERLOO, IOWA
WSM	7:00 A.M.	650 DIAL	NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
WRFD	10:00 A.M.	880 DIAL	COLUMBUS, OHIO
KAAY	9:30 P.M.	1090 DIAL	LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
WMCL	8:30 P.M.	1060 DIAL	McLEANSBORO, ILLINOIS

### SHORT WAVE RADIO

AFRICA:	Monday	7:00 P.M. (1800 UTC)	7190 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE			
EUROPE:	Sunday	8:00 A.M. (0700 UTC)	5945 kHz on Dial
SRI LANKA			
INDIA:	Wednesday	7:30 P.M. (1830 UTC)	9720 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE	Each		
MIDDLE EAST:	Sunday	7:00 P.M. (1700 UTC)	9730 on kHz Dial
BIBLE VOICE			
RUSSIA:	Sunday	8:00 P.M. (1900-1930 UTC)	6015 kHz Dial
CHINA-ASIA & S. PACIFIC:	Saturday	11:30 A.M. (17510 UTC)	17510 on kHz Dial

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

December 2005

Address all Mail: Ed Bousman, P.O. Box 511, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142-0511

Issue 12

## Jesus is the Reason for the Season

### 44th Year Broadcasting ~ 63 Years Preaching the Gospel

*Thank you for making it possible for me to begin my 44th year of broadcasting on November 18th and my 63rd year in the ministry. Once again we send this special Christmas Issue of GIJAPA in lieu of a Christmas card so we can thank you for your support through your gifts and prayers. We could not do what we are doing without you behind us all the way!*

### The King

The wise men came to Jerusalem looking for the King. They found the King at Bethlehem: Jesus was King in the cradle. Jesus was also King on the cross: there was a sign that Pilate put on the cross that proclaimed Him, "King of the Jews." Jesus was King at the triumphal entry in the fulfillment of the prophecy, "Behold thy King cometh unto thee." Jesus was King of the Church: in Acts seventeen the charge was made that Paul and Silas said, "There is another King, one Jesus." Jesus will be King at His second coming: in Revelation nineteen He is portrayed in His coming again, "As King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Jesus is King on the Judgment Day: twice we are told, "And the King said unto them."

The King in the cradle affected people in different ways. When Herod heard

of the arrival of the newborn King he was troubled and all Jerusalem with Him. Herod was all shook up by a baby. If Herod was all shook up before the King had preached one sermon, worked one miracle, and arose from the dead, what will it be like when he is dragged out of his grave and sees the King come in His glory with all the angels?

The arrival of the King affected the wise men in a better way. They fell down and worshiped Him. They did not worship Mary, they worshiped Him. Another great teaching of their worship is the fact that when they worshiped Him, they also gave to Him. True worship includes giving to Him. Someone has pointed out that true worship does not exist apart from sacrifice. "They gave unto Him gold, and frankincense and myrrh."

The gold of the wise men was greatly needed, although the wise men did not realize it at the time. Joseph was told to flee to Egypt until Herod was dead. That gold no doubt financed the journey and sustained his family until they returned to Nazareth.

Paul tells us the church is the body of Jesus. If the physical body of the little

King needed gold, it is also true that the church body also needs the gift of gold today to finance the preaching of the message of the King. We at GIJAPA are grateful for the sacrificial support of the many who make this work possible. E.B.

*Thanks  
Eric, Nancy, Robert  
Bob & Martha*

**THANKS** to our son, **Eric Vail** of 3z.net, A PCD Company, for keeping all of our office equipment—computers, copiers, printers, scanner, fax machine—working and up-to-date, as well as maintaining and designing the web site, keeping our three GIJAPA e-mail accounts functioning and providing technical support for the internet as well. **THANKS** to **Bob and Martha Feathers** for continuing to send out hundreds of audiotapes from Hillsboro Family Camp speakers to all of the people who have

completed 30 lessons of Studies in the Bible. A **BIG THANKS** to the Pinehurst Christian Church in Marietta, OH for providing the funds for this tape ministry. **THANKS** to Bob also for keeping all of GIJAPA's recording and duplication equipment in excellent condition and upgrading as needed. We will soon be sending Ed's sermons to the radio stations electronically when the equipment is in place to do this. **THANKS** to **Nancy Bravinder**, Ed's niece from St. Paul, MN for the many hours she spends proofreading Ed's sermons. These sermons are sent out each week to those who receive a sermon each week by e-mail. To be on this list, click on the "subscribe" link on our web page ([www.gijapa.org](http://www.gijapa.org)). **THANKS** to **Robert Bucheler**, our friend from Beerwick-Upon-Tweed, England and his mother Kathleen, who listens faithfully every week to our Bible Voice Europe and Bible Voice Russia broadcasts and sends us a reception report. This is such a blessing to have someone listening and reporting back to us, and Robert has done this for over 6 years. Thanks and God bless!



From the first of January through October 2005, we shipped 3,500 new hardback pew Bibles to short-wave radio listeners and 500 large print soft cover Bibles to prisoners, plus boxes and boxes of good used Bibles you've given to us have been sent to our Churches of Christ in Africa. The cost for providing the new Bibles is \$22,100 and the postage \$10,800, making a total of \$32,900. We take this opportunity to thank each one of you as well as the Churches who have given a total of \$25,868 to the Bible/Postage fund so far this year. We say a special thanks for the \$5,370 that you gave when you read our plea in the October GIJAPA newsletter. As you can see, our costs still exceeded the funds designated for Bibles and postage by \$7,032. Once again, we ask that you please don't stop giving, but continue to help us provide a Bible for those who do not have a copy of God's Word to learn of the "good news" that we here in America take for granted. Help us make 2006 the greatest year yet for putting Bibles in the hands of those who don't know Jesus or that He died for them.



Mona Allen (wife of Kerry Allen, Executive Director of Person to Person Ministries), Barbara Ertel, and Roberta Burns continue to work on a part-time basis for GIJAPA. Amy Butler, a senior at Hillsboro High School, worked for us this summer doing whatever needed to be done on the computers, also wrapping Bibles and preparing the newsletter for mailing. She continues to work part-time organizing Ed's thousands of books and typing them into a database for quick referencing. Ellen Pennington from Lynchburg joined the part-time GIJAPA staff in August doing whatever needs to be done, easing Naomi's duties.



Thank you for helping us to accomplish our 2005 goal of hanging on to our ten 50,000-watt stations in the USA and six short-wave stations. Our #1 goal for 2006 is to expand our coverage. Goal #2 is to upgrade our equipment so as to bring GIJAPA to the next level electronically by making each Sunday's radio message available to you on our web site ([www.gijapa.org](http://www.gijapa.org)) for listening at your convenience throughout the week. Goal #3 is to have a more effective outreach, especially in Africa, for distribution of our Bibles and lessons to listeners who request them. By the grace of God, Ike has contacted us concerning this particular issue.



As you read the article below, keep in mind that this is a small, isolated situation. We send thousands of Bibles to Nigeria, Eritrea, India, Egypt, Russia and

Holland with no problems. Lessons are being returned and we have many people studying in these countries. But our greatest fear became reality when God revealed to us in September that some of the Bibles we sent to Ghana, W. Africa were being sold and our Bible studies thrown away. On July 8th, I received an e-mail from Ike with BEWARE on the subject line. I deleted it as "trash" without even opening it. Below is a letter dated July 28th, sent by snail mail that arrived some time in late August.

Dear Bro. Bousman,

*Enclosed are 9 sets of your introductory lessons that I laid hands on in a mysterious way and gave them to some of the brethren in my congregation for use and grading by you. Details of how these lessons were received have been sent to you through e-mail dated July 8 but no reply was received from you. Nevertheless, I still want to send these completed lessons bulk to you for grading after which you can send them back bulk to me to be distributed to the various students.*

*In Christ, Ike & Lee*

Upon the receipt of this letter with lessons to grade I searched my deleted files and found the July 8th e-mail, below:

Dear Brother Ed Bousman,

*My name is Brother Ike, member of the Church of Christ since 1979. I got one of your courses today from a guy who came to sell Bibles to a friend. Among the course materials was the tract, "Facts Concerning the NEW TESTAMENT Church" by P.H. Welshmier. I was surprised when I got to know about the content and so asked if I could take the other materials, which I didn't know were courses materials till I read them later on the bus. Brother, since I found out that the materials handed over to me were Bible Correspondence course materials and are of the Church of Christ doctrine, I took keen interest in them and decided to write to you for some more copies for the brethren in my Church. But something struck me that your materials are being wasted after I read the attachment letter on yellow paper that read, "Dear Friends, enclosed you'll find along with a copy of the Bible the first five lessons of 30 Studies in the Bible..." Brother, it seems to me that people who request the Bibles from you sell the Bibles and dump the courses somewhere? After knowing that the materials were courses and they were very good ones to teach people about the NT Church, I went back to my friend and asked that he give me all the other courses in the Bibles the guys*



brought to him to distribute them to some members of my Church. Now I can be of help to you! My wife, Lee and I run a small ministry we call **THE TRUTH**. We send out tracts to people, share them in buses, schools, offices and hospitals and go door to door. We recently added the *Jule Miller Visual Bible Study Courses*, which we photocopy. We can now drop this course and distribute yours for you.

*In Christ, Ike*

Ike and Lee are in their 40s and have five children, ages 9 to 20. They were founding members of a Church of Christ in 1979 and are now members and leaders of a congregation in their community. Ike is in marketing and sales and Lee is a hair stylist and soap maker by profession. They work their professional jobs Tuesdays and Fridays and the rest of the week is used winning souls through their ministry—**THE TRUTH**.

While I was e-mailing Ike I also received e-mail from a Pastor George and a Brother Robert, each one accusing the other of selling our Bibles and throwing the lessons away and telling us to not send any more Bibles to the other. I simply removed their names and sent Robert's letter to George and George's letter to Robert and asked them what they thought. They both denied it and said for me not to let lies stop such good works. It is totally awesome the way the Lord works to unravel the above scheme. Next day another e-mail was received from Ike, who didn't know anything about the above two men yet.

*Dear Ed & Naomi,*

*I got another 20 copies of lessons 1-5 from the guy today. I was there when 2 young guys brought your lessons and Bibles in to the shop to sell. One of the young men was holding an envelope and I saw his name—Pastor George \_\_\_\_\_ written on it. Is this a name you've sent Bibles to? These young men were about 18 years old. We enrolled 8 new students yesterday for your course, most need Bibles. I told them Bibles are on the way and I'll bring them as soon as I receive them. We have come to join hands with you to effectively monitor the malpractice of the unscrupulous people. We shall go door to door knocking along side with your lessons and we promise that we shall prospect for student to enroll in the course.*

**The following week, Ike writes:**

*The Lord is working wonders in the village of Fianko. We talked to 15 homes for a total of 29 persons and out of this three were baptized and 18 promised to*

*worship with us Sunday. I am going to run a Bible Studies class for the new converts here in this village.*

I e-mailed George and Robert and told them we were not sending any more Bibles into Ghana, that thieves are taking our Bibles and selling them. That we strive to uncover this scam and see that those responsible are prosecuted, and we now have a contact in Ghana and his name is Ike and here is his e-mail address. The next day Ike hears this info broadcast on the local radio station in Ghana: "Ed Bousman of The **GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY** Radio Africa broadcast is not sending any more Bibles into Ghana, but is in the process of uncovering a ring of thieves stealing Bibles and selling them."

**Ike writes again:**

*Information reaching us from Accra and at Bawjiase is that people who were writing to you for Bibles but are no longer getting them are angry with us and that they are going to blackmail us. This was told to me by the guy that gives me the lessons. Please be careful of these people when they write. You can count on us for an effective spreading of the good news.*

**The Following week:**

*Dear Ed & Naomi,*

*Yesterday was a very bad day for us, as we came back from Fianko where we are winning souls only to realize that thieves had broken into our house and looted away with almost everything we have, but we still count it a joy! As I am speaking Lee is still in the hospital as she fainted with fear and pain when she saw what has happened in our bedroom. They packed everything in a KIA pickup truck as our neighbor observed but didn't think anything wrong as two young boys sat on the front porch playing cards while two men loaded everything. They took our refrigerator, our cooker, blender, cooking utensils, two gas cylinders, microwave oven, our computer, printer scanner, monitor, VCR player, our broken TV, tape recorder, all of Lee's jewelry, watches, even her underpants and bras—all of our clothes and shoes were taken. The thieves left a note saying, "They will come back to us so we should leave more money for them, they wouldn't have taken all our stuff if they had found money, and God will provide."*

Ed & I immediately thought there was a connection between Ike being robbed and that we had stopped sending Bibles to George and Robert in Ghana—read on.

**A week later:**

*Dear Ed & Naomi,*

*I am back again with good news but also serious bad news.*

*The good news today is that we are receiving letters for your courses every day. Thank you very much, we get encouraged to see people at your age still loving to work for the Lord. It is a very big lesson to us to emulate!*

*The bad news today is that among the letters we had was a letter threatening my life, it was note that said, "YOU ARE IN DANGER," no name. I didn't read the rest, I gave it over to the police. I am now starting to believe somehow, even though not sure, that the thieves and this note threatening my life has something to do with our transactions with GIJAPA. We also had a hard time yesterday at the village of Fianko. A message was sent to us that one of the sisters at Fianko's father was seriously sick and we had to go and pray for him. On our way to the village 5 miles from Fianko, we had to walk because there was no car. Just in the middle of our journey, it started to rain and we wet to the full before reaching the village around 4 PM. We had to walk again and I pitied for Lee as she was so tired and goose pimples had enveloped me. Please pray for us.*

**Tuesday, next week:**

*Our door knocking operation in the village of Fianko was very fruitful yesterday. I will need to stay all day in the village in order to run my Bible Studies Class. I will go back home late, when there is no car. I will have to walk back home, and it's a three-mile journey and to avoid being attacked by evildoers, I will always have to go do this with one of the brethren or hire a guard to escort me. We have 6 villages to work in. Please pray for us.*

**Sunday:**

*We have had a wonderful day in the village of Nyakokwaah. Praise be unto God for allowing the extension of His Church in that village for the over 10 villages in that area. I had the opportunity to deliver the sermon; the Methodist Church people who also were worshipping in one of the classrooms came around to listen to us. It will surprise you to know that the photographer who made the pictures that I sent you is a Sabbatarian, (someone who worships on the Sabbath), but enrolled in your Bible Course. Praise the Lord! We enrolled more than 8 students. We have 359 requests for Bibles in our local languages and over 600 for English Bibles.*

As we join hands with Ike and Lee, pray that God will use all of our efforts to reach Ghana as effectively as we are reaching other countries overseas.

# Under the Tree

December the twenty-fifth is the birthday of the Lord. Just in case some folk think we don't know any better it needs to be pointed out that we don't know what day the Lord was born, but HE was born and it might as well have been December the twenty-fifth as any other day.

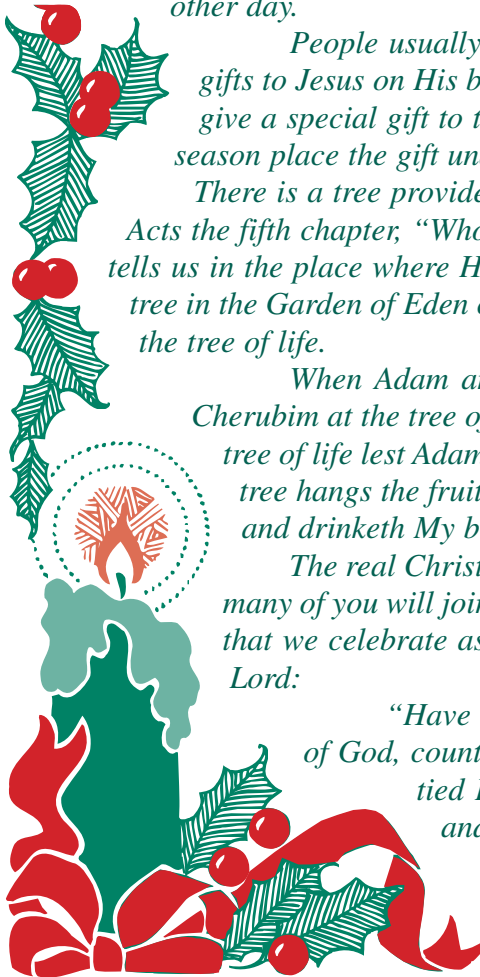
People usually get gifts on their birthday so it seems logical to give gifts to Jesus on His birthday rather than to each other. Should we decide to give a special gift to the Lord on His birthday, why not in the spirit of the season place the gift under the tree of GJJAPA?

There is a tree provided in the scripture for that purpose. Peter tells us in Acts the fifth chapter, "Whom also ye slew hanging Him on a tree." Then John tells us in the place where He was crucified there was a garden. And that reminds us that there was a tree in the Garden of Eden called the tree of life. The tree in the garden where He was crucified is also the tree of life.

When Adam and Eve sinned and were driven out of the Garden of Eden the Lord put Cherubim at the tree of life with a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life lest Adam should eat of it and live forever. Yonder on the bloody branch of Calvary's tree hangs the fruit that sinners may eat and live forever. Jesus said, "He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."

The real Christmas tree is the cross, the tree in the garden where He was crucified. I hope many of you will join me as I place my special gift to the Lord Jesus under the TREE on the day that we celebrate as His birth. And remember these words of Paul regarding the birth of our Lord:

"Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus: who existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea the death of the cross." E.B.



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