

December Devotional: Merry Christmas Stuff by Jerry Furniss

Cross Keys UMC, my "present" (gift) to you in this festive season is my presence in this message to you:

Christmas is about giving of yourselves, not re-gifting what God has already given you.

Go easy on the "presents" (gifts), and go heavy on giving **your** "presence".

I hope you have felt His presence in the devotionals this year.

Here is my acrostic for MERRY CHRISTMAS for you:

May Ever Redeemed Reveler Yell Christ Having Risen Is Sure To Make All Saved

Next, here is something to impress your friends:

Why is Christmas on December 25th???

No, not because Mary gave birth on that day, and not because of any man-made religious (church) tradition. Based on the Bible accounts of the birth of Jesus, extensive historic research, and specific details of the star of Bethlehem, Mary probably gave birth to Jesus on September 12 (3 BC)! Now count back 260 days (about 37 weeks)[or 9 months]:

Month # of days Running total

Sept 1-12 12 days 12

August 1-31 31 days 43

July 1-31 31 days 74

June 1-30 30 days 104

May 1-31 31 days 135

April 1-30 30 days 165

March 1-31 31 days 196

February 1-28 28 days 224

January 1-31 31 days 255

Dec 26-31 5 days 260

December 25th!

No, Mary gave "birth" on September 12th. We do not celebrate that "birth" day.

Yes, we celebrate December 25th because that is the day that God gave us the "**gift**" of Jesus (Immanuel means God with us) as a doorway to our salvation.

The day you are born in this world is when you are conceived, not the day you were birthed. Remember, He knew us in the womb!

Finally, here is your must see Christmas lights display.

<http://www.flixy.com/best-christmas-lights-display.htm>

*Monthly devotionals... send comments, thoughts, suggestions, or submit your own devotional to: geraldfu@comcast.net

* Previous monthly devotionals can be found at <http://crosskeyschurch.org> under the heading Ministries, then Prayer Devotionals.

* If you wish to place a prayer request on the e-mail prayer chain, please use the following e-mail address: prayerlist@crosskeyschurch.org.