

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

December, 2018

## The Prophecy of Christ Foretold and Fulfilled

Most people would like to know the future. Some of us would like to be informed and inspired to live a meaningful life in the present day. Prophecy does not originate from deities, gut feelings, past experiences, skilled manipulation of objects or even prophet's own reflection. Prophecy is a revelation of God that is transformational and inspirational in nature. It brings wonder, meaning, peace, joy, hope and blessing to the receiver. One of the most wonderful things about Biblical prophecy is the fact that their visions are eternal (ancient times they are called "seers"), words are insightful and carried through the Holy Spirit.

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, tries to define prophecy for us,

*"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private*

*interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2Peter 1:16-21).*

Prophecy was intended to reveal a message from God in the days of ancient Israel. Yes, God still speaks to his people; but one must discern before saying that someone is God's messenger, or His spokesman, or this is a word from God. Today when someone claims to be speaking "prophetically," we ask: Where is this coming from? Which dreams? What is the point? We should check prophetic words against the written revelation, the Holy Bible, because God never contradicts Himself. Also, we may see whether or not their prophecies come true, as described in the ancient test for discerning prophets (Deuteronomy 18:21-22). But sometimes our distrust (fear and pain of the past) can lead us to ignore prophetic words we desperately need to hear!

For example, Prophet Isaiah prophesied about the coming child:

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall*

(Continued on next page )

*be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this (Isaiah 9:6-7).*

This is an unmatched event that is documented in the pages of history. It is not just a prophecy of birth of an innocent baby boy. The greatest of all; birthed at a stable among the cattle, and in between the battles of the day. The prophecy is all about Jesus, the only hope of humanity. Scripture refers this event as “the word became flesh.” The one and only one (the only Begotten of the Father) who was born in human form, full of grace and truth. He brings wonder, peace, joy and hope. He is the messenger of the great counsel, mighty God, father of the everlasting age, and the source of all blessings. He is called Immanuel, the God who cannot wait to pitch a tent in our hearts and minds to impart His abundant life. He is the bright Morning Star (Revelation 22: 16) who arises in our hearts. When the Magi saw the star, they “rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”

Luke, a physician wrote the words of our Savior as follows:

*Jesus said to them, “These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and Psalms (Luke 24:44).*

What a beautiful picture of prophetic fulfillment we have in Christ Jesus. Old Testament prophecies are not only focused on Jesus but also fulfilled in Him. We do not have to wait for another prophecy to come because Jesus affirmed that all prophecies about Him were fulfilled.

The writer of Hebrews reminds,

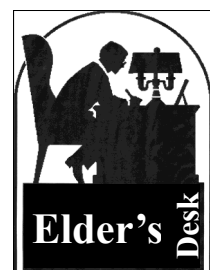
*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, ... (1:1-2a).*

Therefore, today, we know God spoke to us by His Son, Jesus. He is the brightness of the glory of God, who is the expressed image of God’s person, holds everything by His powerful word, and had provided purification for sins. Jesus is the way, the truth, the resurrection and the life. What a wonderful gift we have in Christ Jesus. I invite you all to receive this Jesus not only into your hearts and minds, but also experience His true hope, love, peace and joy. Therefore be informed in the true prophecy, be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and live a transformed, meaningful and resurrected life to its fullest, as we celebrate Jesus’ birthday.

Finally, I would like to close with the revelation of Jesus Christ,

*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and obey what is written in it, because the time is at hand (Revelation 1:3)*

Have a Meaningful, Merry Christmas,  
Sam P. Jacob  
Pastoral Care Pastor



**Connect**

Published by:

**Sunny Place Church of God**  
901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101  
Church Office (630) 530-1830  
Editor: Lynn Drury

Senior Pastor: Peter Weber  
Treasurer: Glenda Kasza  
Elders: Sam Jacob, President  
Tim Kasza, Vice President  
Nona Koivula, Director  
Phyllis Clark, Director

# TLC

Together Loving Christ

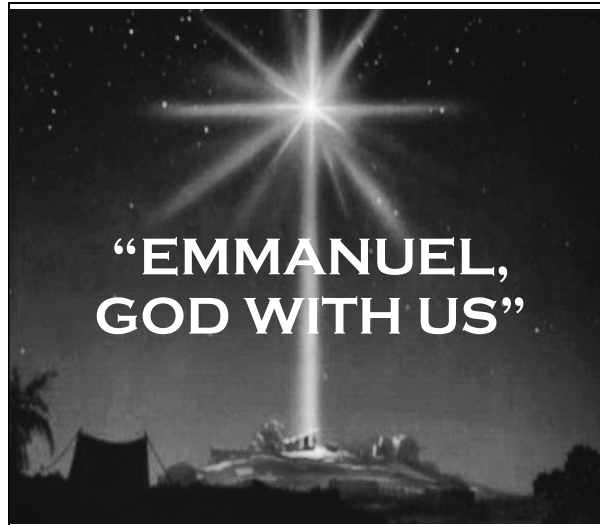
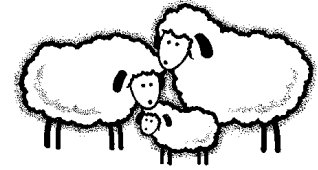
**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

**Grow in the Word!**

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine  
*Nursery Services Provided*



Join us for an evening of Christmas hymns & readings, celebrating the gift of God's presence.

Saturday,  
December 1st  
@ 6:30 pm.  
Light refreshments  
after service.

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

**Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ**

## Elders Minutes of Meeting held November 7, 2018

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Sam Jacob and Nona Koivula

**Devotion:** “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkles to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” *Hebrews 10:19-25*

### Ministry Reports

**Treasurer:** Budgeted Bank Balance \$725.48. Giving for Oct. \$11,140, Expenses for Oct. \$11,842.04.

**Worship & Prayer:** Effie Wiechering is the Interim Worship Leader. There was a meeting Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> where team goals and roles were discussed. The Mission and Vision statements are being reviewed. The technical and sound issues of Sunday worship are being addressed. A Christmas musical celebration is planned for Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm with practices being held. Meetings are planned after the worship service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of odd numbered months.

**Christian Education & Fellowship:** The Dimoulis family will continue teaching the adult Apologetic's class Sunday morning. Pastor Pete will begin the Discipleship 2 class in Jan. There will be a Nov. 14 meeting for the combined ministries. The youth will be attending the Youth Convention in Peoria IL; the fundraisers have been successful as our congregation is generous.

**Pastoral Care & Encouragement:** The ministry continues to send cards and flowers. The compassionate care counseling continues as needed.

**Outreach & Missions:** Kirk Bookout was our guest speaker about Children of Promise on Nov. 4. More children were sponsored after his program. The Missions Festival will be held the first weekend in May. The senior luncheons continue on the second Sat of each month.

**Stewardship & Support Services:** The Commonwealth Edison Energy Savings program will begin in a week or two. New energy saving LED lights will be installed over a period of about two days.

### New and Old Business

**Reminder to team leaders-** Annual Reports due Dec. 1st, to our church office.

Next Elders meeting Dec. 5



Kid's

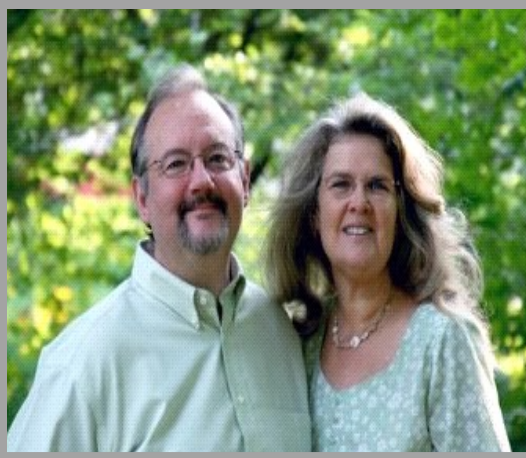
# Connection

The Greatest Gift!!!



For you to color





## Meet Larry and LeAnn Sellers Missionaries to Cote d'Ivoire

Larry was born in Texas, but his childhood years were spent in France and Algeria. He earned bachelor's degrees in music and missions from Gulf Coast Bible College (now Mid-America Christian University), and a master of arts in religion, with a concentration in Christian missions, from Anderson School of Theology. LeAnn was raised in Florida and earned a BS degree in elementary education at Gulf Coast Bible College. They married in December, 1985, and then completed a full term of service in Haiti. Their first child, Laura, was born while serving there; their son, Lee, was born during their term in Rwanda and Congo. The Sellers family has adjusted to living in seven different countries on three continents, been exposed to several different languages, and lived in conditions from civil war to coup d'état. In spite of people's view, that missionaries suffer great deprivation, they feel very fortunate to have raised their children abroad for the numerous advantages it has offered.

The Sellers began their term in Cote d'Ivoire in 1996, planting the first French speaking church in West Africa for the Church of God. They have been instrumental in the starting and leading of West Africa Bible Institute (IBAO) and are teaching there. They are also involved in the planting of a work in neighboring Burkina Faso.

The Assignment: Larry and LeAnn help the church develop programs for leadership and church administration. They work alongside the leadership of the Church of God in Cote d'Ivoire to create strategies for planting French-speaking churches. They also develop French literature for the church in Africa. LeAnn also carries responsibilities in the women's work, a literacy program, and Christian education.

More about Cote d'Ivoire: or Ivory Coast, a country of more than 17 million people located in western Africa. For several hundred years, the country was a French colony. Gaining independence in 1960, Cote d'Ivoire was one of the most stable and prosperous African states until the late 1990s. Then falling cocoa prices and political turmoil have hurt the standard of living for many Ivoirians. The country is just now recovering from a civil war that began in the fall of 2002. During the civil war national Church of God pastors and members took in the displaced, contributed to relief funds, and spoke to the needs of the people. The Church of God in Cote d'Ivoire was challenged by the civil war, but has risen to the challenge.



**"Oh Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant"**  
**Tis the season to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior - Jesus,**  
 who changed history, the Son of God, who was born to save the world  
 from sin. Let us join together to sing in exultation,  
 Glory to God, let us adore Him - **Christ.**

### The Ladies Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 15th, 4pm, at our Parsonage**

What to do??? - What to bring??? - Create some "finger food" to share with your sisters. Our Lord has always provided an abundance of food and desserts along with good tidings and cheer. If you wish, bring a wrapped gift of \$10 to participate in the gift exchange, always a laugh. And it is an Exchange Festivities include singing our favorite Christmas songs to worship and rejoice - Emmanuel, God with Us. Plan to share these glad tidings of great joy. Please let Carla or Nona know your plans to attend by Dec. 9th, so we have enough chairs and song books.





## 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday,  
December 8th  
11:30 am

Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food,  
great speakers and activities.  
Free event for Seniors 55 & up.  
Register now at 630/398-2314.



Let us pray for the whole world and especially for our own country, that this Christmas we may see more clearly that peace comes not through violence, bitterness and hatred but through love, forgiveness and reconciliation.  
We pray to the Lord

Merry Christmas

## Afternoon of Prayer Light Lunch following

Sunday, December 16th  
12:30 p.m.  
at Sunny Place Church

## Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Bible  
Study

### “Apologetics”

A continuing study on how to answer those who ask the reason for the hope we have in Christ

Led by  
The Dimoulis Family



## Children’s Classes

Led by Carla Weber

***Nursery services are provided***

Thursday Evenings  
7:00 p.m.  
at Sunny Place



## “Power to be Witnesses”

A Bible Study  
Through Luke’s letter of  
the Book of Acts

Led by Pastor Pete



Joy TO THE  
World  
THE LORD IS  
Come



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1</p> <p>“Emmanuel, God With Us” Christmas Service 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			<p>Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>		<p>2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>		<p>Ladies Christmas Party at the Parsonage Saturday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m.</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Afternoon of Prayer, Light lunch following 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>				<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31			<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>		
<p>Pastor's Open House 5:00 p.m.</p>						