

December 2017

# The Beacon Herald



**GREETINGS**  
*of the season*

*May the Grace of God be with you and your family during  
this festive season.  
All the best in 2018!*

# Merry Christmas



joy

grace

hope-love

faith-peace

honor-purity

justice-charity

courage-loyalty

goodness-prudence

sympathy-humility

fortitude-temperance

brotherhood-cooperation

and

God

is

Love



# Pastoral Rx

Some people refer to this season as the most wonderful time of the year and on many levels I would agree with that statement. It's a time when families come together to exchange sentiments through gifts and gathering with one another; it's a time when friends come together to reflect and celebrate; it's a time when neighborhoods come together to help lift the spirits of those who are less fortunate than others, and it's a time when communities of faith should unashamedly and boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ came to this earth.

This is the most wonderful time of the year because at the heart of this season, the reason for the season as it were, is Jesus. Take Jesus out of this equation and all we have is another holiday, take Jesus out of this season and all we have is a job "gift exchange", take Jesus out of Christmas and all we have is another reason to spend money and go broke. And could it be that for some of us the reason why this time of the year isn't as wonderful as I'm painting it out to be is because somewhere along the way we took the Christ out of Christmas? That somewhere along the way we started caring more about gifts, trees, red suits and reindeers? And we missed the simple truth that this season is really all about God sending His only begotten Son to this earth. That's what this season is really all about.

I love this quote on this most wonderful time of the year..."Let us seek to faithfully

represent Christ on the coming festal days by imitating His example as He went about doing good. It is impossible to enjoy the approbation of God while living for self. As Christians who profess a living faith in the near coming of the Son of man, keeping all of God's commandments, let us make earnest efforts to draw near to God through Jesus Christ and make a covenant with Him by sacrifice. In our principles of action we must be elevated above the customs and fashions of the world. Christ came to our world to elevate the minds of men to the divine level, and to bring them into sympathy with the mind of God." {RH December 11, 1879, par. 4}

This is what this season is all about, Jesus. That's why this season is wonderful because of Jesus and this is why we should celebrate this season. The Bible declares that, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called **Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**" {Is. 6:7}. So let's strive to keep Jesus as the main object of our attention during this season and if we do, than I believe that we will be able to declare that truly this is the most wonderful time of the year. God bless you and your families as we celebrate the greatest gift of them all, the gift of Jesus.

Pastor D



# Ten Rules for Happiness ... for 2018



When people are asked what they want from life, happiness is usually on the list. I am a firm believer that happiness is not a “place” that one arrives at after achieving one thing or the other. I believe that happiness is a choice, a state of mind, and a way of life. And with that said, I think that there are some requisites that lead to this thing we call happiness. And although the title reads, “rules,” that’s more for semantic purposes. The following are more like ten guidelines for happiness:

## 1. GOOD HEALTH

We all have different bodies and with that comes different challenges to our bodies. But the body we have been given is ours to take care of, and we ought to take care of it as much as we can. There is a reason for the phrase, “health is better than wealth.” Friends, if you have good health, you have a good life.

## 2. GRATITUDE

In the midst of trying to obtain things and titles, and in the everyday routine of life, it can be easy to forget to count all those blessings that you have. Gratitude is the reason why people with less can be just as happy as people with a lot – each is thankful for what he or she has. I have honestly never met someone who was happy, authentically happy anyway, and ungrateful. If there were a formula for happiness, gratitude would be a constant in the equation.

## 3. DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

Apart from not sweating the small stuff, realize that many things are the small stuff. You have people who love you? You have a warm bed at night? You eat 1500 – 2000 calories a day? You are generally in good health? Yes, yes, yes, and yes? Well, most of the rest of the things that occupy your mind are small stuff. Let it go.

## 4. HOPE

Hope is vital to one’s happiness when happiness is threatened, and in a life full of problems and the potential to worry, hope comes in handy. The thing about hope is that it can be the hardest thing to hold onto when you need it the most, yet at the same time, hope is one of the most difficult things to kill. I think when hope is truly dead, so is the spirit, and at that point, the body has no willingness to live. Less worry, more hope, more happiness.

## 5. FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness, especially when we feel injustice or hurt or both is difficult. But life is ultimately too short, and burdening one’s self with grudges or bitterness will NEVER lead to anything positive. Happiness, by nature, is positive. We can’t be happy and bitter at the same time.

## 6. GENEROSITY

There is a tendency especially in this part of the world, to see life as a zero-sum game – “you can’t have, what I have.” I know this is a bias, but as an African I was raised to believe what is yours is never solely yours – whatever gift or material thing you have only really has value when you share it with others. People who are happy, from anywhere in the world, know this.

## 7. INTROSPECTION

Introspection is the ability to cut out the noise, and I think happiness comes from doing so as often as necessary. Sometimes it feels like we’re not enough for the world and that we have to prove something to people around us. When we cut out the noise, and in the silence of our hearts, we find who we are, and how beautiful that person really is.

## 8. BALANCE

We need things to keep us busy, we need to take a break from the rigors of life; we need science and the physical and facts. But we also need fiction and sentimentality and spirituality. I think we’re not only happier when we’re attentive to all our needs as human beings, we’re able to positively affect the happiness of others.

## 9. SERVICE

Whether it’s time, talent, or treasure, serving others just feels good. Serving comes in many forms from helping a stranger on the street to going half-way around the world to help a community. But all service reminds us that we are all on this earth together and knowing that you are the reason for someone else’s survival or contentment or happiness, can be the greatest happiness of all.

## 10. LAUGHTER

Life is short, but it is also the longest thing you will ever do and there will be disappointments and failure and rejection and tears, no matter how happy a person you are. But if you have this funny little thing called a sense of humor, you’ll learn to take pains with a stride, and at times, even a heartfelt laugh. And that heartfelt laugh will remind you that your happiness is just a thought and/or action away.

by Kovie Biakolo  
- via Internet

## Jesus' Birth Word Search

E R T Y M T H U J K I O L P E D I  
E L I Z A B E T H L O K J H F D N  
M B V C R E D S W D F H J K O U N  
P O K J Y S A I R A H C A Z C F K  
A S D R G H J J I O O L N N L P E  
L C A E S A R A U G U S T U S G E  
P O K H G Y G N R D V B N M O Y P  
L J O S E P H G L J S P H E M H E  
K O G Y J K L E E D J E S U S J R  
J H E G Y U I L L K T R F D O K C  
G N R L W R J S H E P H E R D S K  
F N D A B G B I A E D S B L O U J  
D H E A F R F G T Y H J I K M N U  
S J G O D G D O K I U Q A D F H H  
E L Z D E R G B N U D F J O N H F

JESUS

ELIZABETH

SHEPHERDS

MARY

JOHN

INNKEEPER

JOSEPH

ZACHARIAS

ANGELS

GOD

GABRIEL

CAESAR AUGUSTUS

Color Me . . .



COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

# Bermuda Conference News ...



January 3	Bermuda Institute reopens
January 7	Personal Ministries Directors' Meeting
January 8	Bermuda Institute Home & School Meeting at 6:30 pm.
January 14	W.A.V.E.S. Course at Bermuda Institute
January 18	Bermuda Institute School Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
January 20	BI Day at Warwick church
January 21	Bermuda Conference Officers Training at Hamilton Church
January 22	Constitution & ByLaws Committee Meeting
January 28	W.A.V.E.S. Course at Bermuda Institute
January 29	Bermuda Conference Executive Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
February 3	Town Hall Meeting at Southampton church
February 4	Personal Ministries Directors' Workshop
February 5	Bermuda Institute Home & School Meeting at 6:30 pm.
February 8	BI 100 Men on Campus
February 12	Workers' Meeting - <b>BERMUDA CONFERENCE OFFICE IS CLOSED</b>
February 17	Town Hall Meeting at Hamilton church
February 22	BI Senior Presentation
February 26	Bermuda Conference Executive Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
March 4	Personal Ministries Directors' Meeting
March 4	W.A.V.E.S. Course at Bermuda Institute
March 5	Bermuda Institute Home & School Meeting at 6:30 pm.
March 6	BI Elementary Sports
March 7	BI Academy Sports
March 9-11	Bermuda Conference Women's Ministry Retreat
March 12-16	BI Spring Week of Prayer
March 15	Bermuda Institute School Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
March 17	BI Day at Southampton church
March 18	Island-wide Health Fair
March 25	W.A.V.E.S. Course at Bermuda Institute
March 26	Bermuda Conference Executive Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
April 8	Personal Ministries Directors' Meeting
April 16	Bermuda Institute Home & School Meeting at 6:30 pm.
April 18	BI Spring Concert
April 27-29	Pathfinder Drill and Drum Camp
May 6	BI Annual Art Show at Barr's Park
May 7	Bermuda Institute Home & School Meeting at 6:30 pm.
May 11	BI Spelling Bee
May 14	Constitution & ByLaws Committee Meeting
May 17	Bermuda Institute School Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
May 18-20	BI Alumni Weekend
May 27	W.A.V.E.S. Course at Bermuda Institute
May 28	Bermuda Conference Executive Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
May 25-30	BI Final Exams
May 31	BI School Picnic