



HOME CITY

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2015



THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

Text: Matthew 1: 1-17

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. Matthew 1:16 (KJV)

For the believer to understand Christmas, it is important to first understand the reason why Christ was born. It is a historical fact that God has preserved the Jewish people through every evil attempt to stomp out their existence. Evil has also tried to destroy the believer and those that hold firm to the faith of Christ. But by his power God has fulfilled his promise to send his son to us through the line of Abraham, and David. The story of Christmas is a message of hope.

When Jesus Christ was born there was a change of expression from 'who begat' to 'Jesus was born of Mary but not of Joseph.' Through the birth of Christ there are a number of historical periods that symbolizes the spiritual pilgrimage of any saved man. Jesus was born and purposed to rule as king.

**You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet, Psalm 8:6 (NKJV)**

As human beings we lost our rights to dominion through enslavement to sin and the judgment of God began to manifest among the human race.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NIV)

God in his divine wisdom looked for the method of liberating and restoring man to fulfill his original purpose through Jesus Christ the Messiah.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

Unusual events that happened during the divine birth of Christ:

*His birth was of the spirit.
His birth created a predicament.
His birth necessitated a special revelation.
His birth was a fulfillment of prophecy.
His birth was through his obedience in order for man to be restored.*

Dear friends, let us celebrate the one who brought peace to the whole world and enjoy this season as we honor Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Pastor David Shamenda

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature
sing

G. F. Handel, Isaac Watts (1719)



Merry Christmas



FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR



Rev. Dr. David Shamenda

This publication is the first one from our office and is made available to the public with prayer that it may help to lead many thirsty believers to the fountain of the living waters. One of the first rules of aerodynamics is that flying into the wind quickly increases altitude. The wings of the airplane create more lift by flying against the wind. How this lesson was learned I am sure is by watching birds fly. If a bird is simply flying for pleasure, it flies with the wind, but if it senses danger it turns into the wind to gain altitude and it flies upward towards the sun.

I strongly feel the eagle's confidence at Home City Church. The eaglet becomes independent after one year. It gains good eye sight, its talons are sharp, and it can find its own food. After a year of training the confident young eagle no longer depends on its parents for survival but on its ability.

Like the eagle, we as believers must remain confident in our God given abilities and strengths rather putting our confidence in man. Our assurance must be in the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us every day. Let us share the love of God with others for God is love. By embracing His love and learning how to share it with others, we become more like Him. Be blessed as you read and we invite you to share the message with others.

“Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them afloat.”

Deuteronomy 32:11

C O N T E N T S

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
Proverbs 31:26

Women's Ministry
4



Church Is...
5



Home Fire Groups
6

Missions
Neighbor, Neighbor
8



Worship Ministry
7



Forward Young Adults
8



Children's Ministry
10

Appreciation
Corner
9

Connect
Plug-in, Serve
12

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Pastor Ruth Shamenda
Women's Ministry

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16
Our vision is to know to God's word and to share his love with friends and family. Our mission is discipleship through studying the Bible together, encouragement through sharing of testimonies and fellowship. We desire to build heartfelt relationships, partnering in prayer and development for accountability with each other as we walk side by side in this powerful journey of faith. We invite you to join us!

*She opens her mouth
with wisdom, and the
teaching of kindness
is on her tongue.*

Proverbs 31:26

Man's Greatest Need A Healer, A Savior

What is Man's greatest need?

Is it wealth?
Is it fame?
Is it position?
Is it a mansion?
Is it education?

By no means no!

The Bible in Matthew 16:26 says "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Man's greatest need is salvation (reconciliation with God). For that reason God sent his Son Jesus to redeem the world.

Man needs healing and transformation of the soul; the soul of man has no rest without Christ, as the Psalmist says in Psalm 119:28 "My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word."

The cries of the soul

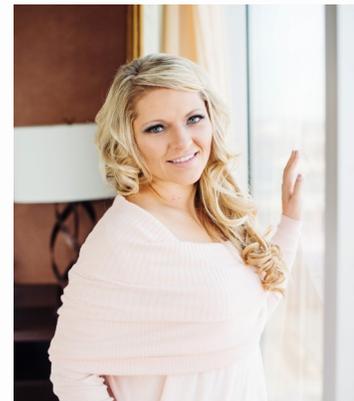
Jesus heard the cries of the soul from the wearied people who gathered around him. He saw the soul's desperate need in those who struggled with overwhelming tasks of everyday life. Such weariness and endless labor was to him a sure sign of a soul not properly rooted in God. He saw the multitudes around him and it moved his heart for they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd, Matt 9:35-36. He reached out and transformed them through teaching, preaching and healing every sickness.

HOME CITY MAGAZINE

We are excited at Home City Church to launch Home City Magazine! This is a platform for us as the body of Christ to share what God is doing in our lives, in our ministries and in our community. We invite you to share your stories, testimonies, ideas and comments. A special thank you to everyone who selflessly contributed to this publication. Blessings.



Achsah Mutowa
Home City Magazine
Editor



Bridget James
Home City Magazine Photographer
Bridget Rochelle Photography
www.bridgetrochellephotography.com

CHURCH IS...

By Pastor David Shamenda

For someone to comprehend the true nature of the church as it should be, one must look to the origination of the church. Many questions arise when we begin to consider the images that come to mind when they hear the word 'church'. The church has been distorted because of the way the enemy has crept into the houses of worship with the form of godliness yet the truth and the manifestation of its originality is being rejected.

The church was once held in high regard as a holy place where those seeking help would go, however because of increasing wrong representation some now consider it a snooty religious country club, bound by strange almost secret rituals and traditions. Furthermore many are calling the name of the Lord without true reverence.

There is also a large number of people that views the church as a political action group that is waging war on behalf of particular social agendas and advancing the cause of its political affiliates. While others still, call the church a waiting room where people wait expectantly but rather passively for the next plane ride or whatever kind of ride they need to hump on to heaven. Is there merit to some of these accusations? Indeed, to some what extent.

When we look to the scriptures Jesus in his infinite wisdom fore-saw what the church would be in this generation when He spoke of the wheat and the tares. The weeds or the tares look like wheat and are completely undistinguishable from each other for a while. However the weeds represent false or counterfeit Christians whom Jesus calls sons of the evil one. Outwardly they look like, talk like and walk like genuine children of God and yet inwardly that is not the case. Dear friends the time has come when true and genuine born again Christians ought to stand up as the true wheat and represent and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness

Romans 12:4-8



OUR VISION OUR 7

To release ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

To maximize learning through life and ministry experience.

To identify emerging leadership in our midst.

To empower people through mentoring relationships.

To cultivate character and skills.

To accelerate productivity and mobilization through programs.

To generate momentum for the church.

OUR MISSION

Home City Church exists to introduce lost people to Christ and to help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus through meaningful relationships, authentic worship, service to others, and solid Biblical truth in a multicultural context.

HOME FIRE GROUPS MINISTRY



Micah James
Home Fire Groups
Ministry

Home fire groups are a great opportunity for the church to get life-on-life with one another. The vision for home fire groups is to set aside a time every other week for groups to meet and worship, pray, fellowship, eat and study the bible together. This is meant as a focused time to apply scripture to our lives and be there for one another. As we read, discuss, pray, and help others in our group we see the church come alive and the fire of God begin to burn in our hearts. We then hope to spread this fire to other homes and launch more home fire groups so that there can be these little fires all over WNY.

Right now at Home City Church our home fire group meets every other week on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30pm at 43 Conrad St. in Depew. We are currently looking at the book of Acts specifically chapters 1-5 and the beginning of the early church. We are seeing the excitement, struggles, moves of God, and revival that took place with the new believers after Jesus was resurrected. We are so excited for the growth and testimonies we are seeing come from the people who have been a part of home fire groups and hope that you will step into what God is doing. As home fire groups are intentionally low key and informal we also encourage you to bring friends or family and join us every other Wednesday night.



Home Fire Group Members

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

HEBREWS 10:25

WORSHIP MINISTRY

*SING
UNTO
THE
LORD
A
NEW
SONG;
SING
UNTO
THE
LORD
ALL
THE
EARTH*
PSALM 96:1



Home City Church Worship Team: Vince, Tyler, Jackie , Oneida and Emma



Jackie Davis
Worship Leader

The Worship Department of Home City Church, is under the direction of Worship Leader Jackie Davis. A graduate of Cornell University, Jackie brings to HCC an extensive background in music ministry including: numerous years as a soloist for the international Total Christian Television network (TCT), several years as a vocalist, choir director, and worship leader for Kingdom Bound Ministries, over a decade of experience as a soloist, choir director, worship leader, and musical producer for The Tabernacle in Orchard Park, under the ministry of Pastor Tommy Reid. Her ministry has taken her to cities across the United States, Canada, and West Africa. She has served as the worship leader of Home City Church since its launch in 2012.

The Worship Team currently consists of Vince Davis II who plays the guitar, Tyler Davis who plays piano/keyboards, Emma James who does vocals, Oneida Rosa who does vocals, and Jackie Davis the leader and also plays keyboards. The worship team practices regularly, and prayerfully seeks to lead the congregation more deeply into the presence of the Lord each Sunday, through a wide variety of songs, including, modern worship songs, contemporary praise & worship choruses, spiritual songs, and fresh arrangements of traditional hymns.

The HCC Worship team is currently in need of a bass player. The ability to read music, lead sheets or charts is required. There is also a need for a drummer. Experience with different rhythms, meter, and sensitivity to the flow of the Holy Spirit as to tempo, and volume are required. The music department is also looking for instrumentalists or vocalists who would like to share their gift through the ministry of solo music. Soloists can be a beautiful addition to Sunday services, holidays and special events.

NEIGHBOR, NEIGHBOR

By Achsah Mutowa
Missions Coordinator

Of Me, You and Opportunity

In life, all of us are presented with opportunities to minister to someone in need. How we respond to those opportunities is what determines what kind of neighbor we are. In Luke chapter 10, Jesus tells a parable of a poor fellow who is robbed, beat down and left for dead. Three people are presented with an opportunity to lend a much needed hand, but there is only one taker, a Samaritan despised by the Jews. He takes care of the injured man, carries him on his animal to an inn and pays for the man's stay at the inn, and promises to repay whatever more the innkeeper would need to spend on the wounded man. The least likely candidate to assist, becomes the standard of a good neighbor. In verse 37 Jesus tells us to "Go and do likewise." In light of this parable, if at all we find ourselves more like the Priest and Levite and less like the Samaritan, let's ask ourselves, what could be hindering us from doing what Jesus commands? Could it be apathy, self-centeredness, unwillingness or busyness? Whatever the reason we arrive at, I am willing to wager that it's certainly **not lack of opportunity**.

By Micah James
Forward Young Adults Group

Forward Young Adults group was founded on three basic pillars: engaging worship, sound biblical teaching and a vibrant atmosphere of fellowship. The intention of Forward is to provide a group of young people who can spend time with each other and develop friendships as we all grow in life and grow in the Lord. We strive to create a culture of people who passionately worship God, are grounded on solid biblical teaching, learn practical tools to help in our walk with the Lord, and live lives of faith that glorify God. God has placed in every person a divine purpose and specific gifts that he wants to use and we at Forward look to help reveal that purpose to young people and develop those gifts to make a difference in the world around us. We have seen incredible growth and maturity as well as tremendous miracles in the lives of those who have come and it's only the beginning. Come join us! Forward young adults group meets on Friday nights at different locations and starts at 7:30pm.

The Bible in Luke 6:38 says "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." At Home City Church we desire to serve Christ in the area of missions both locally and abroad. Currently we are doing work to support Child Development Centers (CDCs) in Zimbabwe and Zambia in Africa. CDCs offer holistic child care to orphans and vulnerable children in poor and marginalized communities. These CDCs address the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical needs of underprivileged children, mainly AIDS orphans in low income communities. So we invite you to get involved in missions. No seed is too small. There are many ways that you can be the HANDS and FEET of Christ in the world!

FORWARD YOUNG ADULTS



Forward Young Adults Group Members

APPRECIATION CORNER

We at Home City Church would like to thank all our members both old and new as well as our visitors who continue to make our church a home! We would also like to thank all those in leadership as well as those who work in a voluntary capacity. We appreciate your faithfulness and commitment as we journey together in fulfillment of the Great Commission. God bless!

“Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.”

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

Special Shout Out!

John Mark Costello who is the church's Head of Media

Emmanuel Shamenda who is the church's videographer

Grace Sampaio who volunteers as the church's assistant videographer



Lucas and Rachel James
Church Maintenance

Lucas and Rachel James together with their children Ella and Ethan have graciously opened up their home to host the church's Home Fire Group Meetings. This wonderful warm setting has enabled the ministry not only to grow, but also to become amazingly vibrant as well. Your love and generosity is much appreciated.

God bless!



Ron Long
Church Elder &
Ushering Ministry



Linda Lukehart
Hospitality Ministry



Joanna Shamenda assists with children's church and the connections table.



Vince Davis
Treasurer & Sound System



Karl Myles
Ushering Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Jamie McCutcheon
Children's Ministry

In children's church we have been learning about God through prayer and reading the Bible. Our desire is to see each child grow in the Lord and learn that they have a purpose and a destiny. We want each child to understand the Bible on their own level and we want them to know that they have something to offer. Whether it is praying, reading a scripture, or participating in a craft we want each child to get involved. We are excited to see all that God has in store for the children at Home City Church!

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:14

Children are a heritage from the Lord,
offspring a reward from him.

Psalms 127:3



Children's Church : Jamie and the children



Christine McCutcheon with the toddlers



Story time with the children

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

Matthew 25:40



FASTING

THAT

PLEASES

GOD

ISAIAH 58: 6-7

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen:

To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens,

To let the oppressed go free,

And that you break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

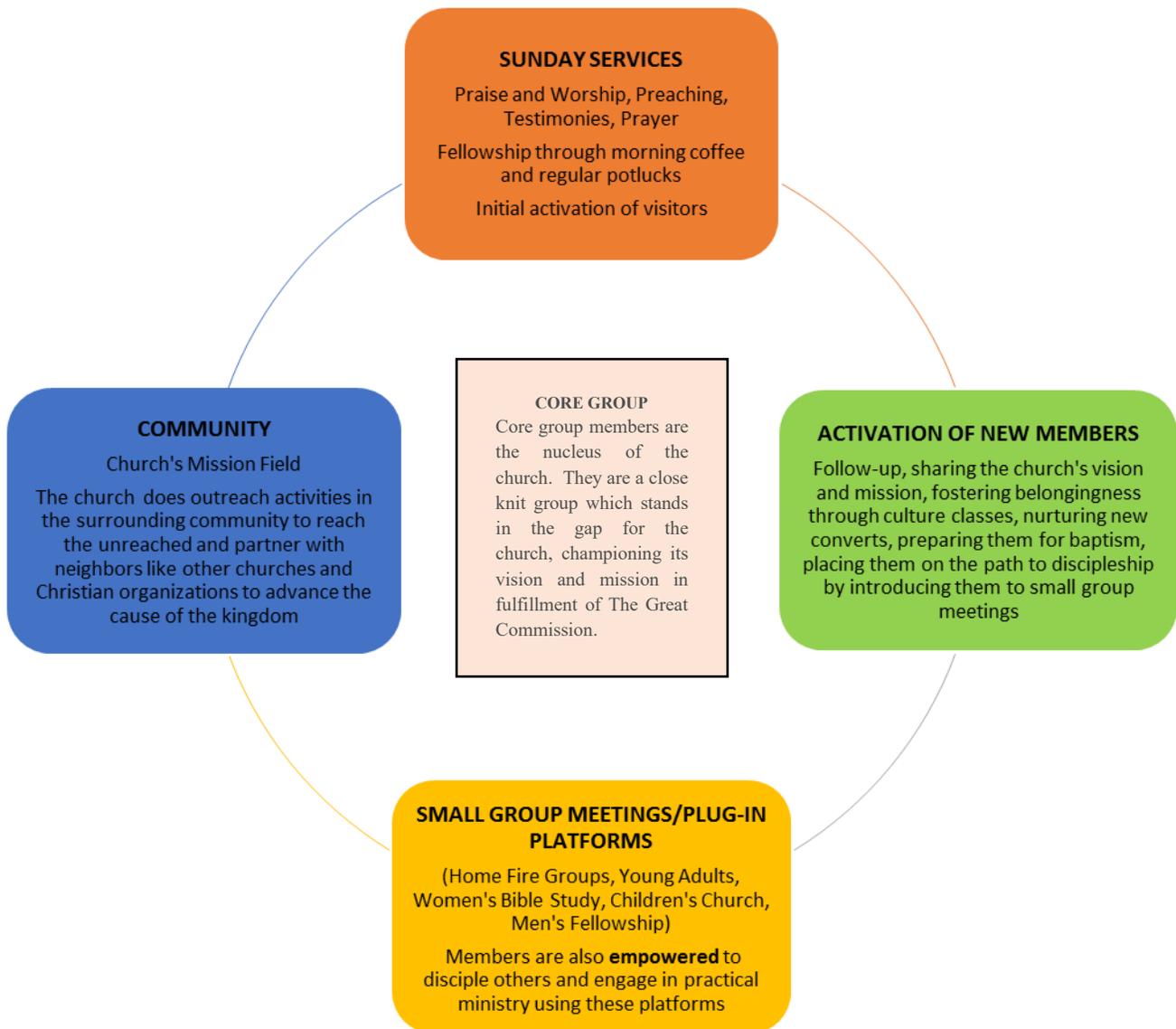
And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;

When you see the naked, that you cover him,

And not hide yourself from your own flesh?”

HOME CITY CHURCH

CONNECT - PLUG-IN - SERVE



Home City Church
86 Burlington Ave, Depew, NY 14043
(716) 2763138
homecitywesleyanchurch@gmail.com