



# Daleville Christian Church

December 2016

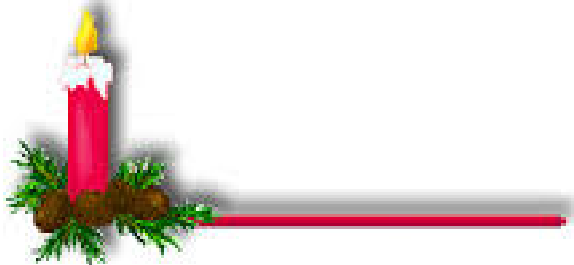
## From the Pastor

### *We Must Celebrate Jesus' Birth!*

Many of Jesus' followers in America today have the feeling that Jesus is getting lost in the Christmas shuffle. The truth is that Jesus IS getting lost in the Christmas shuffle. With Christmas commercials and displays arriving at Halloween, clearly something else is driving the drive to Christmas. But it isn't a fight we plan to win, it is a test we plan to teach toward. We want people to know (Christians and non-Christians) that Christmas is a worthy celebration of Jesus' birth. [Remember, even the Pilgrims/Puritans gave up celebrating Christmas at all because of the tainted celebrations that were taking place. And, oddly, American clergy once opposed the greeting "Merry Christmas" because "being merry" and "making merry" was associated with drunkenness!]

This year at DCC we will talk about the whys and wherefores of celebrating Jesus' birth--why it is important. We'll even talk about some of the wrong turns the cultural holiday has taken. So, be sure this Christmas that YOU are celebrating God's gift of the Messiah/Savior to us--Merry Christmas!

-- Peace,



## Update on . . . Sally Barrett



### Tears from Koper

Leaving an appointment in tears is not my typical reaction. However, one day last week that is exactly what happened. I spent the day meeting up with students at the University of Koper (located on the coast of Slovenia) along with four of my teammates. One student that I met up with was named Elizabeta. I knew nothing about her except that she had an interest in God. So we made an appointment to meet up and talk more. I was so taken aback when she arrived to the cafe completely "high".

She spent the first half of our appointment sharing about how she struggled with depression, bi-polar disorder, bulimia, and dabbled in new-age beliefs. It was heart breaking. When I shared about Jesus she expressed that she too wished to experience God in that way. Yet she was holding so tightly to what the world offered. It seemed as though she felt she had no hope. She was so burdened by life and there was no promise of rest.

I was quickly reminded of Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Nothing is more refreshing to me than this truth. The reality is that life can be so exhausting and full of burdens. Yet Jesus chooses to exchange our burden for His. And His is light!

As I left my conversation with Elizabeta I began to cry. It was an excellent reminder of the spiritual climate in Slovenia. Elizabeta is just one of many students here who experience these struggles. And I want more than anything for her to experience freedom. Not the "freedom" that the world tells us exists. Freedom that comes from Christ.

I have many encouraging stories that I could share from this past month. The Lord is at work and He is changing the hearts of many. However, sin angers me. I am angry when I see its hold on my life. And I am angry when I see its hold on the life of others. And as I see it in the life of the girls I meet up with, I am reminded of the fact that we so desperately need Jesus. He so lavishly pours his love and grace on us. I pray that Elizabeta and many more students will experience how light his burden really is.

-Sally