Oswald Golter was a missionary in northern China during the 1940’s. After ten years service he was returning home. His ship stopped in India, and while waiting for a boat headed for home, he found a group of refugees living in a warehouse on the pier. Unwanted by anyone else the refugees were stranded there. Golter went to visit them. As it was Christmas-time, he wished them a merry Christmas and asked them what they would like for Christmas.

“We’re not Christians,” they said. “We don’t believe in Christmas.”

“I know,” said the missionary, “but what do you want for Christmas?” They described some German pastries they were particularly fond of, and so Oswald Golter cashed in his ticket, used the money to buy baskets and baskets of the pastries, took them to the refugees, and wished them a merry Christmas.

When he later repeated the incident to a class, a student said, “But sir, why did you do that for them? They weren’t Christians. They don’t even believe in Jesus.”

“I know,” he replied, “but I do!”

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8 NKJV).

“While we were still sinners…” Note that the Apostle Paul includes himself and the Christians in Rome in the “we” of this text. He is speaking of all humanity. All of us are sinners. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). And, “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

Even though we were and are sinners, God demonstrated His own love toward us by giving His Son to die on the cross for our sins. “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).

Some would question: “Why would God give His Son to die for those who didn’t ask for Him to do so? They don’t deserve it. God, they don’t love You.”

Through the cross, God answers, “But I do. I love them. I want them to be saved.”

God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4 NKJV).

The truth is… We are sinners (Romans 3:23) and in our sin are destined for destruction (Matthew 7:13-14).

The truth is… God loves us anyway. He loves us so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross to pay the price to redeem us from sin (Ephesians 1:7).

The truth is… God will save those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). God will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

"Amazing love, how can it be, That You, my King, should die for me?"

It is amazing and it’s true. Jesus died for you so that you might live. Won’t YOU accept His offer of salvation and eternal life on His terms?

David A. Sargent
NURSING HOME RESIDENTS: There is a large boxes at the side entrance and in the main lobby for gifts for the nursing home residents. Requested items include: packages of razors with blades, conditioning shampoo, body wash, deodorant (male & female), lotion, socks, petroleum jelly in jars, footie/anklet socks, pj bottoms (male XL, women L & XL), chap stick, nail polish, polish remover, nail files, emery boards, denture tablets, soft tooth brushes, tooth paste, clear lip gloss, face cream, wet wipes (flushable), games, building blocks. Games and building blocks can be purchased at Goodwill and thrift stores. These boxes will be picked up and delivered to the nursing home on the morning of December 17th. You may also give your money to Eunice Warsh and she will shop for you. Thank you for your generosity.

PET FOOD DRIVE: Sammie Morris’ Sunday morning Bible class will again be collecting for the homeless animals this holiday season. The drive will continue until January 2nd. There are boxes at both doors for pet food to be given to the Mobile County Animal Shelter on Howell’s Ferry Road. We are also asking for cash donations that will be given to the Mobile SPCA on Ziegler Circle for the spay and neuter fund. You may give the monetary donations to Patti Mitchell or Darn Sims.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING will be on Sunday, December 9th, 3:30pm and Tuesday night 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Please bring whatever your family would like to eat on Tuesday night before leaving the building for caroling. BYOS (bring your own supper). We plan to leave and have around 6:30 pm. (Please note the change to Tuesday night instead of Monday night.)

YOU ARE INVITED to the Church of Christ South Side on December 9th for “Let Us Be Encouraged”. The speaker will be Robert McCreary. Bible Study Hour is 9:45 a.m with Worship at 11 a.m. Followed by Lunch. Everyone is welcome. Lunch is at 12:30 pm.

HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL: The fellowship meal will be held on Sunday, December 16th after the p.m. worship services. Please mark your calendars. It will be a finger food fellowship meal with a special visitor. Parents please bring a wrapped book for your child and place it under the tree that is located in the fellowship hall. There will be many Kodak moments so have your camera ready.

SOU’P AND SANDWICH FELLOWSHIP MEAL on Wednesday, December 26th. There will be a sign-up sheet at the welcome center soon for items needed. We will share a meal and then have devotions.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SONGLEADING: Song leaders and pads of leaders songleaders, Nathan Lunford has graciously volunteered to schedule songleaders for the Wednesday night devotionals. Two songs are led, including one invitation song.

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Thank you for all the thoughts, cards, food and especially the prayers during our recent loss of our son Clint. A special thanks to those who sat countless hours with us awaiting his final surgery. God’s love and support of our Christian family is what will see us through. Fred & Sheila Hudson