

Consider Christmas – my observations	Many Happy Times People are nicer, conversation is nicer, Everything is nicer.
Start now preparing you heart	Try to read the Gospel story daily, beginning after Thanksgiving Your heart will be ready and you will have a better Christmas 10 Minutes to read thru the entire Christmas Story Matt. 1:18-25, entire chp 2, Luke chp 1, 2:1-39
Celebrations of Jesus Christ	Christmas Passover/Easter – I start thinking about Christ's suffering now. Jesus Assension – 40 days after his death Pentecost – Sending Holy Spirit – Easter + 49 days
Timing of Christmas Gods timing is always perfect-for us too!	Gal. 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which - was spoken of the Lord by the prophet...
God's timing for the Men at the Life Center	You men are at the right place at the right time Don't quit, don't leave, don't allow the enemy to persuade you! Don't say I will come back – usually does not work. Time for you to get to know and obey Jesus - Christian Life is one of obedience Pastor AL – Sometimes in life, you only get one shot – make the most!
	<u>If you believe that:</u> Won't come home drunk/drugged as a shunk You will press into God -Worship, Praise, Study, Obedience You won't leave without Pastor's approval Before moving on – you need to be successful here Hard but truthful
Christmas Gifts	Money amount spent is immaterial My children played wih the boxes the toys were in Listen to what your family asks for – money is not the issue If I had to do it over again – agree on \$ amount spent Former Pastor Carl and family would set small dollar amount \$5.00 - Wonderful time of appreciation and creative gift giving
Paying the Price For Christmas	God moves – Enemy resists. Remember God is greater! Who paid the price for the birth of Jesus? Answer – children of Bethlehem slain. Matthew 2:16 Herod slew all the male children, 2 yrs under - Visting Elementary School with boys missing in 2 grades
Christmas Story is all Volunteer	Except the Angel Gabriel and the Romans Different than a military draft Volunteers can always say No! God will find somebody else. - Katherine Kulhman Results of Zacharias -thousands of Jewish Priests – only one listed Army of Jesus and the Church is all Volunteer Some paid financially, most are not 1 st Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first

	apostles, secondarily prophets,, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. God has given each of you men a ministry – you need find it and do it. I received a prophecy about teaching men, Pastor Stan prophesied over you – get a copy and claim it.
Christmas Story in the Gospels	Matthew and Luke story written. Mark and John no mention More about other men and women of God than Jesus Jesus came, doesn't do or say anything Jesus is worshiped for who he is, not what he is going to do Jesus was the revealing of God's plan Christmas story is a story of faith and obedience
Cast of Characters	Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zacharias, The Wiseman, John the Baptist -Herod, Shepards, Roman Soldiers (ordered), Gabriel - Appointed Simeon, Anna
Want to do great things for God?	Desire a righteous life – primary requirement of God Sin will delegate you to the 2 nd string (Sitting on bench) Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, - so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Righteous life can be hard, (gets easier), but it is game changer Great ministries have gone down down the tube thru sin. (PTL)
Ministry opportunities are available	College, Seminary is very good, not always available Not always possible Finish this program sucessfully Attend the Institute of Ministry Class at Christian Retreat 10 weeks Assaignment to a Conference Pastor (various locations) Christian Retreat Program completion leading to ordination.
Helpful hints for a great Christmas	Focus on doing good Think Good – reject un-doo feeling /throughs Sacrifice – give up (smoking for day) fast a meal/pray Be good – nice. Force yoursefl if needs be Guard your mouth Pick one person and show kindness to them – appreciated? Be thankful for what Christ is going to do for you Do something spiritual – read more, pray more, serve move Focus on the wonderfulness of Jesus Have a Great Christmas