

# The Vision

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18)*

Volume 24, Issue 12

December, 2007



**Your Association Staff wishes for  
each of you a safe and joyful celebration  
of Jesus' birth!**

**Rick Astle**

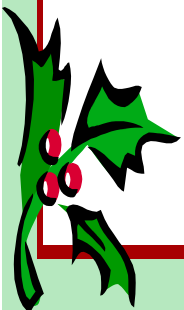
**Lee Avery**

**Peter Copeland**

**Dexter Mitchell**

**Renee Sullivan**

**Todd Wood**





## Immanuel – God with us

I started listening to my Christmas music on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. I guess I'm getting a head start because 11 of us will be in Nepal, December 12-23<sup>rd</sup>. So preparation for me personally is a huge deal. I am preparing for Christmas by listening to Christmas music since I know that I won't hear much in Nepal or on our travels there. Not to mention, I have a lot to prepare and pack for my trip to Nepal ahead of me. In Luke 2, the decree went out by Caesar Augustus that a census must be taken.

Granted, we don't know in Scripture if Joseph and Mary had much time to prepare or pack for their trip to Joseph's homeland. But I think, during this special holiday season, it is of utter importance that we prepare for God to use us in incredible ways to share His Gospel and His love. What a great opportunity God has set before us to reach out to friends, relatives, and others who we work with. Dear WBA, may God find us faithful, may He cover you in His love, and may He be the "God with us" we see through Scripture this season!

**Merry Christmas from your  
US/C2 missionary**

**Peter Copeland**

# Church News

**LordsWay:** is seeking a Youth Minister. Full-time or Part-time, Salary is commensurate with experience and education and is negotiable. Their major requirement is a deep understanding of God's calling for this special ministry. Reference check and background checks are required. If interested call Michael Stewart at 843-421-7191.

**Langston:** The Celebration Choir and Orchestra extends and invitation to join them as they present the Christmas musical "On This Very Night" Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. For more information call 843-365-5141.

# News From Todd

**Dear Friends,**

As we go into the holiday season, we always reflect on how truly blessed we are as God's children. We have the assurance that He is looking out for our best interest, guiding us with His Holy Spirit and teaching us every day to become more like Him. I can't imagine the hopelessness of a life without Christ and living day to day without purpose. To wake up, go to work doing something I may not even enjoy just to get a check, come home to a fighting family, go to bed and get up the next morning just to do it all over again. Our lost friends around us have to be asking why? Who was it that led you to the Lord? Would you pause just a moment to thank Christ for sending them to tell you the best thing you have ever heard? They have given your life meaning through Christ!!

This gets me to thinking, "Who have I had an **IMPACT** on this year and forever changed their life?" Can you think of one or two folks you have shared Christ with this year? If not, the year is not over. Begin to pray today, "God, give me the opportunity to share with someone this week", and He will. How? What will I say? Leave that to Him. He is the great provider and will be all sufficient for you.

What about your church? What kind of **IMPACT** is your church making in your community? Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> every Sunday school class or small group should have received an **IMPACT** booklet to give you ideas how you can reach out to your community. This booklet has 3-5 ideas each month for you to use. If your class did not get a copy, ask your pastor or church office. If they did not reach your church, call the association and we will get more copies to you. What greater Christmas Gift could we give than the gift of Christ this Christmas!!

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN QUALITY DEACON TRAINING?

Brother Rick would like to hear from Pastors and Deacons in our Association churches who would attend an association-wide deacon training conference, if it is offered in 2008. If this idea interests you, please call Brother Rick at the association office (843-248-9358) and tell him what subjects would meet your needs.



**Association Prayer Network Testimony  
by Glenda Atwater**

After hearing about the WBA Prayer network, and beginning to read Brother Rick Astle’s book, “The Priority of Kingdom-Focused Prayer”, God has been working on my heart. He has been calling me to more fervent prayer. I talked to God every day, I thought my prayer life was “pretty good”. Oh, how wrong I was! It isn’t that it wasn’t real prayer, but it was shallow, weak.

I have also been reading a book called “Mighty Prevailing Prayer.” Don’t start reading this book unless you want God to draw you ever closer to His side!

**Jeremiah 33:3** says, “Call unto Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things that you do not know.” I want to be a part of God telling us and showing us great and mighty things.

With deep appreciation, humility, and prayer, the Christmas Prisoner Packets were sorted in late November for delivery to St. Andrews Baptist Church, Columbia. Through each of you who gave to this mission project, God continues to show His love, goodness, and mercy. May each of you be blessed. Thank you not only for this but for all you do! May your Christmas season be filled with Love, Joy, and Peace?

**WMU of Waccamaw Association**

Women’s Lifestyle Evangelism  
Conference

**Unashamed of the Gospel**  
On January 25, 2008  
Myrtle Beach Community Church

**Come join us! And bring a friend or group**

**Attention All Royal Ambassadors, (past/present),  
parents/grandparents and members of all  
churches in the Waccamaw Baptist Association.**

We need your help in compiling a very special cookbook in our association. Royal Ambassadors will be 100 years old May 2008. Plans are underway to produce a different kind of cookbook to commemorate Royal Ambassadors and recognize such a milestone in missions’ education for boys. The cookbook will have the following, additional sections:

1. History of Royal Ambassadors
2. Campfire cooking (camp-out settings)
3. Recipes from other countries
4. Specific information about our Southern Baptist Convention

For those of you, who have experience (or advice) in compiling cookbooks and would like to participate in this mega-size mission project, please call Mickey Hyman at (843)238-0146 or (843) 340-8936. WMU Directors, I’m depending heavily upon you to get the information to members of your church. Thank you. Please begin sending your recipes to:  
Mickey Hyman

4916 Yaupon Circle Myrtle Beach, SC 29575  
*The proceeds from this project will be scholarship funds to send Royal Ambassadors, who meet the criteria to McCall Royal Ambassador Camp.*



**YOUTH FEST**

January 19, 2008  
SC Baptist Building

Conference Schedule:  
9:00 am Registration  
10:00 am General Session  
11:00 am Conferences  
11:45 am Lunch  
12:45 pm Conferences  
2:45 pm General Session

.Call 1-800-723-7242 On line: [www.scwmu.org](http://www.scwmu.org)  
Registration includes lunch \$17.00 per person before December 20<sup>th</sup> \$27.00 after that.

**Deadline: Thursday, January 10, 2008**

## **WBA UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS** **AND INFORMATION:**

**December 2-9** Week of Prayer for International Missions

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** Nepal supplies due at WBA

**December 13<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>** Nepal Mission Trip

**December 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>** WBA office closed for Christmas

**January 19<sup>th</sup>** Youth Fest, Columbia

**January 25<sup>th</sup>** Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Myrtle Beach Community Church

**February 29<sup>th</sup> –March 1<sup>st</sup>** Disaster Relief Training at Myrtle Beach Community Church

*If you have an emergency or urgent need during the week of December 24-28, do not hesitate to call Brother Rick at home (843-234-0500).*

## **Waccamaw Baptist Association**

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**Specially Prepared For:**