

# UK Stockings



by Dawn Reed  
E. Ky. Columnist

"Absolutely not," I declared with big eyes and eyebrows raised. That was the answer to my husband's request for a UK stocking a few years ago. I can remember it like it was yesterday...

I looked him square in the eye and continued to shake my head.

My boldness was a big deal for me. I never just say "No" or "Absolutely not." But this time was different. He was talking crazy! Everything in our home was decorated in the true Christmas colors: red and green. Red, for the color of Jesus' blood and green, for eternal life. (I've researched its origin.)

"I let you decorate early," he mumbled. "I still don't have the tree up," was my reply.

"I let you put up those Christmas curtains I don't like," he continued. "I'll take them down," I finished.

We were at a stalemate. No way was I giving in on this! I told him he could put a UK stocking up in our UK room. (Yes, we have an entire room decorated in blue and white with prints, posters, light switches, etc.) In fact, that would be perfect. But he wanted his UK stocking to be

with all the other stockings on the fireplace. He made a pouty face that works 364 other days of the year.

"I ALWAYS give in!" I whispered, where no one could hear. (There was a tug at my heart but I ignored it.) He mentioned it a couple of other times but I brushed it off.

At Wal-Mart a few days later, I came across the UK section. Wouldn't you know they had a UK stocking right there and it was lovely-perfect, actually. With ginormous embroidered letters and white fur, if you were looking for a UK stocking, this would be the one you'd want. I thought I'd carry it around and just think about it.

If I bought it, I would look generous and giving; I'd be the bigger person...but I just wasn't feeling it. The longer I held it, the more aggravated I got. The UK stocking was beautiful, but it didn't match a thing. "I ALWAYS give in!" I said again. I

looked at the embroidered letters and thought, "U Kan't have a UK stocking on the fireplace!" but I bought the foul thing anyway.

The UK stocking had become a symbol of surrender. And I still didn't want to budge! (I'm not proud of my behavior.) At home, I went to my closet to get my head on straight and get things in perspective. What was I thinking?! This was my OTHER HALF...the love of my life besides Jesus! How important was it really that all my decorations match? Wasn't this the time of giving? God didn't say, "I've given so much already..." before He sent Jesus that first Christmas. He gave out of His unconditional love for you and me.

After church the next morning, I hung the stocking on the mantel. It was so bright it practically throbbed. The blue totally clashed and the white fur and letters glowed. I waited

expectantly to see my beloved's response. He came in and out of the room three times and didn't notice a thing!

On Sunday night, he finally took a moment to sit on the couch and exhale. I rushed to the doorway to watch him. That's when he saw it. He began with a long yelp and was up on his feet jumping up and down. He rushed to me in the doorway and shouted, "My STOCKING! You got it!" He was hopping back and forth. His face was red and I thought I saw a tear in his eye. "I can't believe you got it!"

It was awesome! He carried on like UK had won another National Championship!

The UK stocking hangs on the mantel again, with the red and green ones. Now, when I look at it, I think, "U Kan do all things through Christ!"

Lord, help me to remember what You have given me this Christmas and NOT what I have given!

# Church News

Mail announcements to The Estill Tribune, 6135 Winchester Road, Irvine, KY 40336  
Call (606) 723-5012; Fax to (606) 723-2743; or E-mail it to <News@EstillTribune.Com>

Wednesday, December 18th at 7pm

## Candlelight Service at Ivory Hill

Ivory Hill Baptist Church will be having a "Candlelight Service," tonight, Wednesday, December 18, 2019, starting at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Bro. Warren Rogers is the pastor.

Saturday, December 21st at 5:30pm

## Rice Station Christmas Dinner

Rice Station Christian Church invites everyone to their Annual Community Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 21, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. Everyone is welcome!

Saturday, December 21st at 6:00pm

## Annual Christmas Play at Pine Hill

Pine Hill Baptist Church, 75 Barnes Mountain Road at Doe Creek, will be having their annual Christmas play on Saturday, December 21, 2019, starting at 6:00 p.m. The play is called, "The Definition of Christmas." Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday, December 22nd at 11:00am

## Christmas Cantata at Providence

You are invited to Providence Baptist Church at 1150 Winston Road in Irvine, on Sunday, December 22nd, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. as they present their Christmas cantata, "Sing Gloria." Come, join us as we celebrate the journey to Advent. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, December 22nd at 6:00pm

## Mt. Carmel Children's Christmas Play

Mt. Carmel Christian Church will be having its annual Children's Christmas play on Sunday, December 22, 2019, starting at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, on Tuesday, December 24, 2019, starting at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

LUKE 3:4, 6

As it is **written** in the **book** of the **words** of **Isaiah** the **prophet**: "A **voice** of one **calling** in the **wilderness**. **Prepare** the **way** for the **Lord**, make **straight paths** for **him**. And all **people** will see **God's salvation**."

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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## seeds of Hope



What is joy? Is it a feeling? An attitude? An emotion? Is it something we "get" or "discover" or "find" on the road of life? Is it temporary or permanent? Can it be passed from one person to another? Is it internal or external? Is it possible it could be all of the above?

Things were not going well for Moses. He knew that something was missing in the lives of the Hebrews and he knew what it was: joy. They had been through difficult days and trying times. They grumbled and groaned and griped. They were critical of their conditions and angry with God. Why, they wondered, did they leave what they had for something they had been promised but could not find. They were disen-

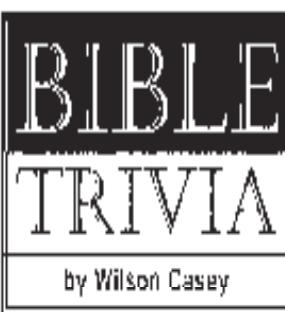
chanted and discouraged.

So, Moses, the man of God, knew what to do: He went to God in prayer. "Relent, O Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on Your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days."

Moses reminded God that He was a God filled with unfailing love. In earnestness he begged God to show His compassion and relent — "We've suffered long enough! When we awaken tomorrow morning," he prayed, "fill our empty hearts with a renewed awareness of Your unfailing love." Moses knew that only God could restore the "joy of their salvation" and the blessings that repentance brings.

Often we become like the Israelites - wanting God's blessings without being faithful to Him. Hearts once filled with joy are empty because of sin. It's time to repent!

Sower Ministries.org  
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1. Is the book of Immanuel in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah

3. From Matthew 1:18 when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? Married, Engaged, Just

friends, Strangers

4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth? Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance

5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron

6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not

Answers on bottom of Page 12

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in stores and online.

# Wonderful Words of Life

by BOB CASEY, preacher

## Cornerstone Church of Christ 70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

Have you ever sang the song, "Wonderful Words of Life"? Makes one wonder, how did someone arrive at the very idea? Do you suppose that the Bible, which is the Word of God, has some things therein that is indicative of this very idea? Let's examine some passages to see just what it actually says.

First of all, **John 1:1-2**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God." But, then, Verse 14 says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

So then, God has sent his son into this world of sin for the purpose of condemning sin in the flesh. In **Romans 5:18**, "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." Then in **John 3:17**, it is written, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." So, we clearly see that our Lord was on a mission from God to bring the message condemning sin but offering redemption and salvation through his son (Romans 2:5). So, this passage fully and for once and all informs us of his mission. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak in the flesh, God sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. Then, in **1 Timothy 3:16**, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." In Philippeans 2:7-11, here Paul reaffirms the whole matter.

Now, with all this said, just how did Jesus commune his message to us? In Luke 4:31-36, while in Capernaum, our Lord spoke words and things happened. Lepers were healed, epilepsy was cast out, demons had to flee, because his spoken word was in power, causing them to say, "What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him." (Mark 1:27)

So, when I read and believe and obey the written word of Jesus, I too, can say, "What is this?" For it is through this process that my sins were forgiven, removed and forgotten. Now, I truly know what Jesus says in **John 15:3**, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." Then, for comfort, I turn to **John 8:31-32**, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup>And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. <sup>33</sup>They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?" I say, help me Lord to continue to abide in our word alone! Help me when I declare that Christ alone is the only name whereby men can be saved (Acts 4:12). Help me when I declare that his word of authority says to unrepentant sinners in **Acts 2:38**, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Help me Lord when I plead with the weak brothers and sisters in Christ, 'don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together on the Lord's Day' (Hebrews 10:25). Help me Lord to plead with my Christian family to give as much as they are given to by the Lord and not to think, how little can I give but how much can I give. After all, this is the Lord's operation (Colossians 2:12). Then, Lord help me as I try with honesty and sincerity, compel all whom I meet to come to hear the Gospel with the hope that they will be saved by the same way that Cornelius and all his household were also saved. Read in Acts, chapters 10-11, Peter said the angel of God directed him to the house of Cornelius to tell him words whereby thou and thy house shall be saved.

In closing, do you know that the Apostles said we today are commanded by God to hear Jesus? John 17:5 clearly says it.

Next week, we will see the spoken word in action. Come and visit with us.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

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BIBLE TRIVIA  
by Wilson Casey  
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