

Independent Assemblies

December 2008 Newsletter



**"HE WILL REIGN...
AND OF HIS
KINGDOM
THERE WILL BE
NO END!"**

LUKE 1:33, NRSV

Whereas our Lord Jesus has said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," we, the members and churches of the Independent Assemblies, do associate ourselves together, and pledge ourselves to fulfill this command by giving ourselves to the service of our Lord through the operation of the Spirit, and submitting to His direction, we shall minister the "Good News" of Christ through every avenue made available unto us by God. And our lives shall be spent in this purpose and Holy calling that our Lord may be glorified on that Day that He shall gather His people unto Himself. We are not a denomination, nor do we have any desire to become one. We are simply a Fellowship of Ministers and Churches brought together by God's Love and our common beliefs.



**and a Very
Blessed and
Happy New Year**

*From the Board of Independent Assemblies
Mickey Keith, Ted Estes, Ken Anderson,
Robert O. Johnson and Jerry Edmon*

**Mickey Keith, President P.O. Box 1546, Ada, OK 74821 -
580/310-0222 Phone & Fax - Email: mickey.keith@gmail.com**

**Dr. Ted Estes, Vice President P.O. Box 2248, Claremore, OK 74017 918/341-
8344 Fax: 918/341-8352 Email: pastorted@lifechangerchurch.com**

Ken Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer - P.O. Drawer 1120, Lexington, OK 73051 -

405/527-6030 405/527-9755 - Fax 405/527-9387 or
405/527-1074 - [Email: kda@valornet.com](mailto:kda@valornet.com)

Robert O. Johnson, *Director of World Missions* - 910 North 9th, Blackwell, OK
74631 - 580/363-2734 - Fax: 580/363-1042
Call (Toll free) 1-877-898-3171 - [Email: roj@clarionmissions.org](mailto:roj@clarionmissions.org)

Jerry Edmon, *Board Member* - P.O. Box 862, Elgin, TX 78621 -
512/281-5316 - Fax: 512/281-5956 [Email: jedmon@aol.com](mailto:jedmon@aol.com)

IA Website:

www.independentassemblies.org

Please send all Credentials Applications, Church & Ministry Applications to the President's Office. Send all Renewal Fees, Offerings, Missions Funds, etc., Newsletter Articles and Address Corrections to the Secretary/Treasurer's Office.

**Annual Credentials Fees: Exhorter - \$50.00, License - \$65.00,
Ordination - \$75.00**

Reinstatement Fee: \$10.00

**Annual Church Fees: Fellowship Churches - \$50.00,
Member Churches - \$100.00**

Annual Ministry Fees: (Not-for-Profit) \$100.00

2009 Interstate Meetings & Events

Jan. 12 - CHURCH OF LIVING WATER - Muskogee OK - 918/682-1540
Pastor, Rev. John Sokolis

Feb. 9 - LIVING FAITH CHURCH - Moore, OK - 405/794-3104
Pastor, Rev. Jimmy Milligan

March 9 - LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH - Ada, OK - 580/427-6230
Pastor, Rev. Mickey Keith

April 13 - LIFE CHANGER CHURCH - Claremore, OK - 918/341-8344
Pastor, Dr. Ted Estes

May 11 - CALVARY TEMPLE - Edmond OK. 1801 S. Kelly, - 405/348-2334
Pastor, Rev. Dale Drain

June 8 - FIRST GRACE CHURCH - Glenpool, OK - 918/744-4717 or
918/809-9744 Pastor, Rev. Ronnie Spoon

Ordination services are held at the April, and October Meetings and the Annual Conference.

Southeast Okla. District

Rev. Billy Hunter, District Rep.
Antlers, OK, 580/298-2740
email: cffantlers@yahoo.com

Southwest Okla. District

Rev. Donnie Miller, District Rep.

Cyril, OK 580/464-2224 or 512-3657
email: revd@tds.net

Northeast Okla. District

Rev. Mac Blackwell, District Rep.
Locust Grove, Ok - 918/479-6057
email: mblackwell@sstelco.com

North Central Texas District

Rev. Daniel Sue, Regional Rep.
Kemp TX, 903/498-4704
Cell 214/205-8647
email: sued7@ednet10.net

Jan. 19 - ABUNDANT HARVEST - 1008 Mill Run Road , Athens, TX
903/675-1223 or 903/681-0262, Pastor Marc Jones

Feb 16 - JOHN BEARD MINISTRIES— Location to be announced
972/291-3512, John & Elizabeth Beard.

Mar 16 - REFINERS FIRE MINISTRIES INTL., 1611 W. Ennis Ave, Ennis, TX,
972-875-6006 , Pastor Cord Blankenship

Apr 20 - VICTORY TEMPLE— 2101 Acosta Dr, Grand Prairie, TX,
972/642-9008, Pastor Leland Hall

May 18 - MALACHI MINISTRIES— 507 North I-35E, Waxahachie, TX ,
972/923-9203 Pastors Diana & Phillip Downs

June 15- RADIANT LIFE CHURCH— 1910 Southeast 14th St.
Grand Prairie, TX 75051— 972/262-7887, Pastor Jim Snyder

South Central Texas District

Regional Rep. - Rev. JERRY EDMON
512/281-5316 - Fax 512/281-5956
email- Jedmon1234@aol.com

Midwest Regional District

Regional Rep. - Rev. MARK MAYNARD
618/931-4106
email: For-markm@juno.com

Arkansas District

Rev. Charles Kendrick, District Rep.
Alexander, AR. 501/303-0831

Our newsletter, application forms, and bylaws and policies are available for you on our
website. www.independentassemblies.org

Special Dates for 2008

Dec. 21 - First Day of Winter
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

2009

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day
Jan. 6 - Epiphany
Jan. 11- Baptism of the Lord
Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 20 - Inauguration Day
Jan 18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 2009 Interstate Meeting

Monday, January 12, Pastor **John Sokolis** and **The Church of Living Waters**, Muskogee, OK will host the January state meeting of the Independent Assemblies. The afternoon service will begin at 2:30.

Our speakers this year will be: **Jerry Edmon** from Elgin Texas. Jerry is a board member of the I.A. He is pastor of Family Worship Center. **Irvin McCorkle** will also be speaking. He is senior pastor of Family Worship Center, Elgin Texas.

“Come and hear what God is saying for 2009 with an open heart and ear to hear what He is saying. We are living in troubled times yet very exciting times. Now is not a time to give up but to pray up hear God and obey. You might just be one of the harvesters that God is looking for. Don't miss the January meeting it will set your year off right. Get ready, Get ready, Get ready, it's our time church to arise and let God be God in the midst of a perverse generation. Not every young person is bad and everyone voted unrighteousness, I tell you pastor and ministers our GOD will prevail. Come to the January meeting and be ministered to.” Pastor John.

They will be serving a wonderful meal at or around 5:30 pm.

The church is located in the South part of Muskogee at 2509 S. 32nd. St. (32nd. St. is the same as Hwy. 69) They recommend the Super 8 Motel, which is close by and very reasonable - Phone 918-683-888. For more information call 918/682-1540

North Central Texas District

Pastor Marc Jones invites everyone to the next meeting of the North Central Texas area on Monday, Jan. 19 hosted by **Abundant Harvest**, Athens, TX. 1008 Mill Run Road. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm. Call for more information 903-675-1223 or 903-681-0262

Pastor's Wives Retreat Coming February 26th and 27th, 2009. The retreat will be held in Guthrie, OK. There will be more information to follow. Mark your calendars.



LOOK FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON.

It will be a complete new design with several new features to bring us up to date on the web. Our website is available to you to access credential applications and our bylaws and other essential information about our organization. www.independentassemblies.org

Editorial Holiday Message:

Another successful year is almost over and we are now in the holiday season.

This issue of our monthly newsletter is the 156th that our office has produced in the last twelve years. We have mailed approximately 225,000 copies (about 1450 copies each month to our members and other readers who have requested it). I sincerely hope that it is always well received and that the articles and illustrations are useful to you to



somehow enhance your ministry. Thanks to all of you who have submitted very good material and articles that always makes my job a little easier. It is appreciated.

Patsy and I want to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a most blessed Happy 2009. May you be prospered and in excellent health as your soul prospers. Let's keep up the good work and get ready for the coming of the Lord. It will surely be sooner than we may think.

Ken Anderson -your mild-mannered reporter/editor/pressman/mail clerk/secretary/treasurer/person.

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Do we have your correct address, phone number, email address & home church affiliation? — This is your last chance before we send out the new membership directories after the first of the year. We try to keep our database as accurate as possible. Some of our members have moved and we were able to change their addresses due to "Moved, No Forwarding Address" from the Post Office. Unless you have contacted us to give us the phone number change, new church affiliation, change in marital status, etc, your listing in our database and in the directory will be incorrect. Please help us keep your information up to date. ---- Send these changes to the Lexington office. (See back of newsletter)

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



The Mystery of the Manger

By Justin Lonas

Each year at Christmas, we return to the manger. The simple image of the Messiah surrounded by livestock and shepherds is for many an archetype of the Incarnation and a recurring theme in our hymns and traditions.

We are right to put Christ's infancy at the forefront of our celebration because God chose to put it at the forefront of the symbolism surrounding His coming. As if the Creator of the universe taking human form wasn't mind-blowing enough, He chose to arrive on the scene naked and helpless, completely dependent upon his parents for nourishment and protection. In divine paradox, He was both Father and

child to them.

In spite of His to do so, Christ did not beginnings. Isaiah 53:2 *before Him like a a root out of parched stately form or look upon Him, nor should be attracted to to "greatness" in the to quietly work the will withdrawing from the God-become-man identity precisely by (Phil. 2:6); those who were awed at the very human form.*



authority and ability depart from these humble says "*For He grew up tender shoot, and like ground; He has no majesty that we should appearance that we Him.*" He never aspired human sense, content of the Father and praise of the masses. demonstrated His not trumpeting it met Him at the manger ordinariness of His

Equally significant is the location of His birth. While there is confusion as to the exact placement of the manger (whether in a stable, on the lower floor of a house, or in a cave), it is a place not befitting human residence, let alone God's. But it was there in a dishonorable, unsanitary space that Christ entered His world. British author and philosopher G.K. Chesterton capitalizes on this in *The Everlasting Man*. Seizing on the image of the cave, he writes, "It was here that a homeless couple had crept underground with the cattle when the doors . . . had been shut in their faces; and it was here beneath the very feet of the passersby, in a cellar under the floor of the world, that Jesus Christ was born." Indeed, His birth as an outcast foreshadowed the life of homelessness that He and his disciples led (Matthew 8:20, Luke 9:58).

The lowly birth of Christ, as Chesterton goes on to state, is the central event of all history, the end of mythology's dreams and philosophy's search, and the trumpet call of victory over Satan. He says, "It is nothing less than the loud assertion that this mysterious maker of the world has visited this world in person. It declares that really . . . right in the middle of historic times, there did walk into this world this original invisible being about whom the thinkers make theories and the mythologists hand down myths: the Man Who Made the World." The manger turns the world on its ear.

God's entry into the world serves a larger purpose than simply flying in the face of human conventions, however. His arrival was the ultimate demonstration both of His authority over creation (in being born of a virgin) and His love and concern for man. Because He "showed up" in the person of Christ, His character has been demonstrated for all to see. He cannot be ignorant of poverty, for He was poor. He has ultimate sympathy for the suffering because He was tortured and gave His life. No man can accuse Him of being distant or uncaring because He is "God with us". By healing the sick and rebuking the proud, He reminds us that He has entered the world to "set it to rights"; He will bring His justice.

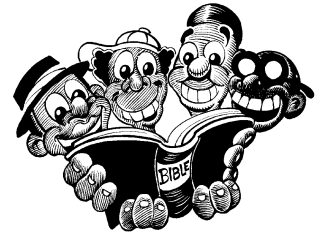
He came as a man to redeem the world. He had to take part in birth and death to defeat the power of Satan over men (Heb. 2:14). As Athanasius of Alexandria put it, He came "to renew men according to His image." Because of the manger, birth and life are honored with the presence of the King. In lowering Himself, he gave significance to the daily tasks and struggles of life. He came to set a standard by which we should also

live.

This then is the mystery of the Incarnation—through all these things, He commands us to follow Him. From the manger, he bids us to follow into a life of lowliness, wandering, sacrifice, and submission to the Father. The irony of God's destruction of earth's status quo is that it simultaneously frees us from slavery under the law and calls us to a higher road. The very Word of God, by whom all things were made and are held together, has shown us the way, and we are to be imitators of Him. Such is the gift of Christmas.

Justin Lonas is Editor-in-Chief of *Pulpit Helps* magazine- Dec. 2008

What do you say when you get a gift you really don't like?



10. "Well, well, well, now, there's a gift!"

9. "No, with all the hostile takeovers this year, I missed the big Ronco/K-Tel/Ginsu merger. Would you just look at that! What will they think of next?!"

8. "Hey, as long as I don't have to feed it, or clean up after it, or put batteries in it, I'm happy!"

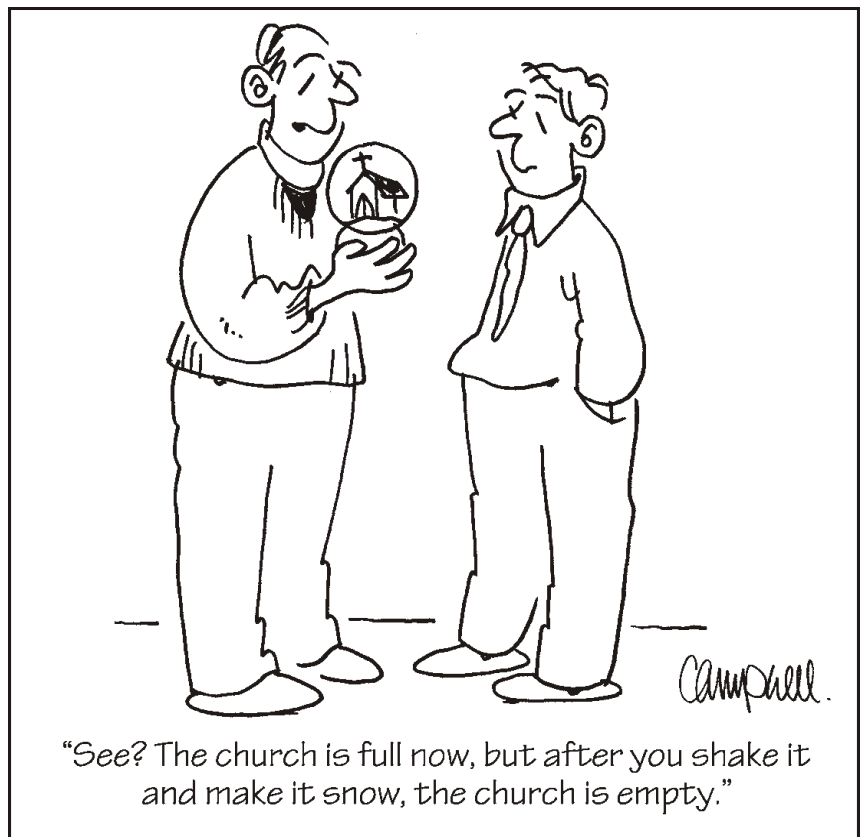
7. "No, really, I didn't know that there was a Chia Pet tie! Oh, wow! It's a clip-on too!"

6. "You know, I always wanted one of these! Jog my memory -- what's it called again?"

5. "You know what? -- I'm going to find a special place to put this!"

4. "Boy, you don't see craftsmanship like that every day!"

3. "And it's such an interesting color too!"



2. "You say that was the last one? Am I ever glad that you snapped that baby up!"

And the number one thing to say about the Christmas gifts you didn't like is. . .

1. "You shouldn't have! I mean it -- you really shouldn't have!"

"A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like A Medicine"

PROVERBS 17:22

Two goobers went deep into the frozen woods searching for a Christmas tree. After hours of subzero temperatures and a few close calls with hungry wolves, one goober turned to the other and said, "I'm chopping down the next tree I see. I don't care whether it's decorated or not!"

A woman was waiting in the check-out line at a shopping center...— Her arms were laden with a mop and broom and other cleaning supplies. By her hard glances and deep sighs, it was obvious she was in a hurry and not a happy camper about the slowness of the line.— When the cashier called for a price check on a box of soap, the woman remarked indignantly,— "Well, I'll be lucky to get out of here and home before Christmas!"— "Don't worry, ma'am," replied the clerk. "With a good tail wind and that brand new broom you have there, you'll be home in no time."

A pipe burst in a doctor's house. He called a plumber. The plumber arrived, unpacked his tools, did mysterious plumber-type things for a while, and handed the doctor a bill for \$600. — The doctor exclaimed, "This is ridiculous! I don't even make that much as a doctor!" — The plumber waited for him to finish and quietly said, "Neither did I when I was a doctor."

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination?" Asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well, give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic."

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45-minute wait for a table.— "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes."— They were seated immediately.

Five year old Becky answered the door when the Census taker came by. She told the Census taker that her daddy was a doctor and wasn't home, because he was performing an appendectomy.— "My," said the census taker, "that sure is a big word for such a little girl. Do you know what it means?"— "Sure! Fifteen hundred bucks, and that doesn't even include the anesthesiologist!"

A man was walking in the street when he heard a voice. "Stop! Stand still! If you take one more step, a brick will fall down on your head and kill you." The man stopped and a big brick fell right in front of him. The man was astonished. — He went on, and after awhile he was

going to cross the road. Once again the voice shouted: "Stop! Stand still! If you take one more step a car will run over you and you will die." The man did as he was instructed, just as a car came careening around the corner, barely missing him. — "Where are you?" the man asked. "Who are you?" — "I am your guardian angel," the voice answered. — "Oh yeah?" the man asked. "And where the heck were you when I got married?"

Christmas is weird- what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

This fellow's wife was constantly nagging him to teach her to play golf. Finally, one morning he relented and off they go. First hole: Par 3, 179 yards, very pretty. The husband steps up first and says, "Now watch me, and do the same thing." He hits a beautiful shot, lands on the green with about 30 feet to the cup. The wife steps up, drills it, hooks it, and it ricochets off a tree, bounces off a rock and rolls up onto the green and drops into the cup.— The husband looks at this, and says, "OK, now you know how to play, let's go home."

That's All folks !

