

VIP Sunday 2016

Today is VIP Sunday (**VIP stands for Volunteers Impacting People**) and, like we do every year, we want to honour all our volunteers. At the same time, we want to encourage everyone within our church to serve the Lord together with us.

Today, this will be a slightly different type of message. Here's a brief outline:

Opening Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

This is but a small fragment of the whole account that Luke gives us of how Jesus was born. Luke explains in great detail all the events and all the different characters that surrounded baby Jesus, from conception to His birth and up to His dedication in the temple.

In that account, we find a myriad of characters: people like Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Zacharias, the wise men (we don't know how many they were), shepherds, Simeon the just man in the temple and Anna the prophetess. I want you to know that it took a lot of people to make the nativity happen.

1. It took a lot of people to make the first Christmas happen!

And it took also many angels: we read about Gabriel but then also about a 'multitude of heavenly hosts' (Luke 1:13).

God literally moved things in heaven and things on earth to that great event of the birth of Jesus.

2. I want you to know that it takes a lot of people to make Church happen too! Church is the collective effort of many people.

Even Jesus in His earthly ministry called upon people to serve with Him: He called 12 then 70 to be with Him, to preach and to heal the sick.

The Church started on the day of Pentecost with 120, anointed to turn the world upside down for God. Right at the start they had preachers but then they also had to find people to serve at the tables and fulfil supportive roles.

3. Gifts from Jesus

Christmas is a time for gifts. Well, Jesus gave us amazing gifts:

Ephesians 4:8, 11-16

8 *Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."*

11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of*

*the fullness of Christ; **14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

***4** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.*

Its Christmas and Jesus gave these gifts to the church.

He gave each one gifts and talents that are not to be buried but activated.

Make the resolution to be a volunteer in 2017. Come and see Ps. Michael after the service (be sure to ask for the free booklet: - “opportunities to serve”)

John 12:26 - *If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. **If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.***