

Please complete this slip and place it in the oak box to the right of the door as you leave.

We value relationships. This helps us get better acquainted and helps us better serve you. Thanks!

### I/We are:

- 1<sup>st</sup>  2<sup>nd</sup>  3<sup>rd</sup> time Guests  Regular attenders

### I/We heard about Word of Life

from: \_\_\_\_\_

### I/We would like to know more about:

- believing in Jesus
- being baptized into Jesus
- following Jesus
- helping at Word of Life
- serving in the community

Adult Name(s) *Please Print* \_\_\_\_\_

Youth/Children (grade) \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete unless our information is current:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Her Email \_\_\_\_\_

Her Phone \_\_\_\_\_

His Email \_\_\_\_\_

His Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Needs, Questions or Comments

**Over for Requests/Thanksgivings & RSVP**

### We Thank the Lord...

- for Elizabeth, for answering her prayers, for making her fruitful and surprising her with joy and gladness, for Mary's belief, for John's joy, for the experience of God's power and possibilities, opportunities and blessing
- for our guests and all who invited and brought them
- for God's provision and presence
- for \$487,429 given to our *Therefore Go* building fund
- for the coming new year
- for all the blessings and resources God has entrusted to our care and His promise to multiply them to build a bigger heaven and better lives.

### We Ask the Lord...

- to inspire and empower us to be prayerful and righteous despite our pain, to expect joy in the middle of suffering and hurry, to believe and act upon God's Word, to leap for joy, to see God's power and possibilities, opportunities and blessing
- to bless missionary pastor Phil Doublestein and the people of Brooks Church as they reach out to people in San Antonio and beyond
- to bless our attenders, community, state, nation and world
- to bless all leaders with godly wisdom and guide them to lead according to His will
- to bless victims of violence, oppression and disaster
- for sobriety for those with addictions
- to stand firm in Christ, navigate work/life balance, seek God first before anxiety happens
- to restore unengaged parents, heal broken families, reconcile estranged family members and resolve housing issues
- to grant a healthy pregnancy and delivery to Mason and Mary Wallrich (**Wallrich**)
- to bless and protect our deployed troops and their families, especially **Matthew Brooks**, Kenneth Larson (**Hatfield**), Logan Neahrng (**Leal**)
- to grant comfort and peace in their last days to Bernard Sowinski (**Valentine**), Pastor Tom Hadley (**Mitschke**) and grant strength and rest to their families and caregivers
- to comfort the family and friends of Rafael Mendez (**Molina**), Tygre Wynters (**Fennigkoh**), Richard McCarson (**Dominguez**) as they mourn their deaths
- to bless Cecilia Friesenhahn & her family (**Flowers**)
- to heal **Patty Stevens**, **Tom & Denise Bruce**, **Joyce Givens**, **Neil & Jean Craigmile**, Paul Krish (**Akridge**), Janice Tolin (**Bruce**), Frances Johnson (**Christiansen**), Omi, Bethany (**Dunaway**), Donna Ahrens (**Flowers**), Cheryl Fields, Ailene Prestage (**Hatfield**), Michelle Martin, Margery Erp (**Malone**), Kristin Becker, Alex Murray, Benny & Lillian Mitschke, Pastors Don Black, Dan Chambers, David Goeke (**Mitschke**), Janet Harris, Baby Zayn, Ruby Brunelle, (**Molina**), Clayton (**Pawelek**), Phil (**Peterson**), David Rubel (**Rubel**), Heather (**Smith**), Bud, Riley (**Stemmermann**), Rita (**Wallrich**), Michelle
- to heal those battling cancer: Guy Morgan (**Craigmile**), Carolyn Dukich, Brenda, Gino (**Dominguez**), Kris Frett, Margaret Swartz (**Edwards**), Morrison family, James Maina (**Hatfield**), Bob Baker, Vincent Sorrentino Jr., Billy Morrison, Laurine Watson, Kathy Jennings (**Mitschke**), Maria Molina (**Molina**), Dawn Putnam (**Myers**), Meredith Powell (**Nightingale**)
- to help those we now name in our hearts and minds
- to connect people to Jesus and His kingdom.

Please take this home so you may review and apply this week's LifeLesson and keep your Word of Life family in your prayers throughout the week. Please keep this list current by sharing updates on your Info slip.

*Building a bigger heaven & better lives!*

### Advent Antecedents

## Burden to Blessing

*Pastor Ken Mitschke*

"It's the most wonderful time - of the year..." or is it?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ peak.

Second highest number of \_\_\_\_\_ occur.

\_\_\_\_\_ climb until New Years' Eve.

### 1. The righteous suffer, but there is joy.

Luke 1:6-7 - [Zechariah and Elizabeth] were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. (ESV)

\_\_\_\_\_ was the worst tragedy for a woman and her family.

Luke 1:13-14 - But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth." (ESV)

This is thrilling...

This is humbling...

Often we must experience \_\_\_\_\_ before we experience God's power.

It seems like punishment, but it's \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Believers hurry, but there is joy.

Luke 1:39-45 - In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." (ESV)

Mary hurried because she \_\_\_\_\_.

John leapt because of \_\_\_\_\_.

Elizabeth loudly exclaimed because she had first seen \_\_\_\_\_ in her own life.

Elizabeth saw:

\_\_\_\_\_ where others saw problems.  
\_\_\_\_\_ where others saw obstacles.

*eulogeo* =

*makaria* =

The Holy Spirit, through Elizabeth is loudly exclaiming to Mary, "Because God's Word has come to you and you believed, you're going to be the privileged recipient of His favor, you're going to be blessed!"

The Holy Spirit is exclaiming to you and me, "You're going to be the privileged recipient of God's favor, you're going to \_\_\_\_\_!"

"A Child Shall Lead Them" by Marie L. Pemberton



**Seek and Save Days**

It's time to connect with people who are missing out on Jesus and new life. At Christmas, people where we live, learn and work are more open to our invitations and to the Gospel. Those who are in transition or under tension are most receptive. Is someone experiencing a new marriage, a new baby, a new home, a new job or a new school? Ask them about the changes they're going through. Really listen.



The following will also be more receptive:

- Close friends and relatives of new converts
- People going through a divorce
- Those who feel the need for a recovery program (any type: alcohol, drugs, sexual, etc.)
- First-time parents
- People suffering a terminal illness
- Couples with major marriage problems
- Parents with problem children
- Recently unemployed/major financial problem
- New residents in the community

Let's reach out to people while they are most receptive. Pray that God would help you see who to listen to, engage, invite and bring. **Then do it.** Invitations are available at the welcome center.

**Prayer Requests/Thanksgivings:**

Confidential - for pastor only

Please **PRINT CLEARLY**

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These requests/thanksgivings may be removed:

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I want to invite the following people to Word of Life . Please pray for them and me.

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**RSVP**

**Christmas Eve Celebration**

You have a friend, family member, co-worker, fellow student, neighbor or acquaintance who would receive hope, peace, joy and love at our Christmas Eve Celebration if only you would invite them. Who will you invite or bring? We'll pray for you and for them!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Contact \_\_\_\_\_