



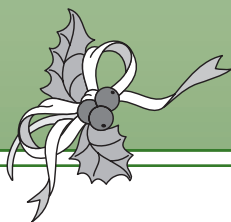
The Fellowship
of
LIFE, LIGHT & LOVE
of
South Asians
at
First Asian Indian
Baptist Church
of Metro Atlanta

Special Points of Interest

- "...Christmas announces the birth of the One who gives us real life..."
– From the pastor
- Special Christmas activities for the whole family

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CALL TO LIFE

A Newsletter of the First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta

December, 2007

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." – John 10:10

A Unique Child Born in An Ordinary Place

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Grace and Peace be yours this wonderful season of Christmas!

We had recently visited Pakistan and shared the Name in which the nations will put their hope. It was necessary to do so, as there is so much hopelessness written on the citizens of this nation. Suicide bombs had been striking everywhere, including an attack on the welcoming crowds of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto from an 8-year exile, killing hundreds and injuring larger numbers of innocent people. Islamic suicide bombers attacked a bus carrying personnel of the Pakistan Air Force, killing several highly-trained officers in Sargodha, and kidnapped Pakistani Army officers in the beautiful pristine mountains of the Swat area. Killings and beheadings by militants were regularly reported by the media, and the entire country was in the grip of serious fear. The daily "International News" reported on November 1, 2007, "Even important diplomatic missions were desperately seeking information from the media about what may or may not happen in the next 24 to 48 hours."

In the midst of the turmoil and insecurity of this nation we arrived and visited several villages and homes, and prayed and ministered to thousands. God used us powerfully for bringing hope. We visited the homes of many poor people, and they reminded us of many biblical events. We visited homes in which cows, sheep, goats and hens were tied or simply lying around. We saw people riding donkeys and children playing with animals. These poor people had little or no possessions. In one home we had to step down a couple of steps before we could stand in the dimly-lit room of mud-built walls. As our eyes became used to the darkness, we saw a picture of Christ hanging on the wall. The place, the surroundings, the animals outside, reminded

*Glory
to
God
in
the
Highest,
and
on
Earth
Peace,
Goodwill
toward
Men.*



me of the place where Jesus Christ was born. Similar circumstances, although that event took place 2000 years earlier, yet this place was one other place where He could have been born. In this other country, the event had taken place which would radically change life on planet Earth. I opened my Bible to the text that recorded His birth in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod..." I stopped reading and began to think of the place, "Bethlehem," where Christ was born. The name Bethlehem means "The House of Bread." Jesus Christ was later on to make the great claim, "I am the Bread of Life."

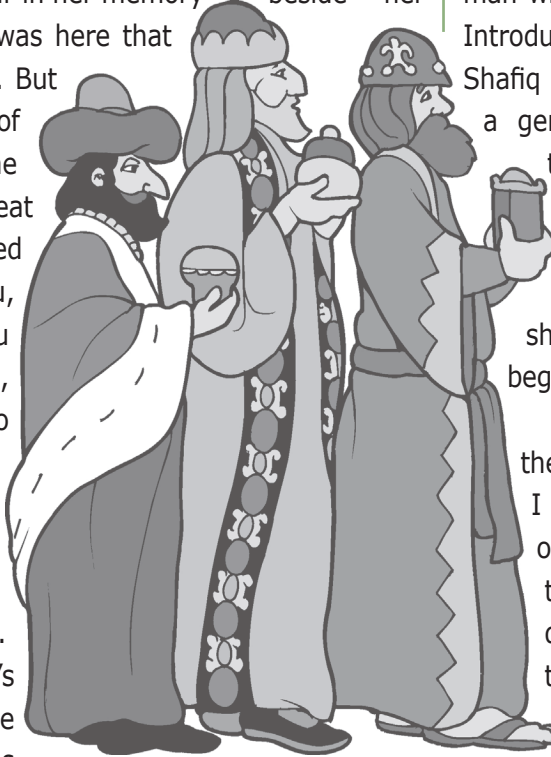
Bethlehem was an important place. It had a long history for the Jewish people. The great patriarch Jacob had buried his beloved wife Rachel there and had set up a pillar in her memory beside her grave. (Genesis 48:7; 35:20) It was here that Boaz lived and had married Ruth. But most importantly, it was the city of King David. It was also from the descendants of David that a great deliverer was to come, as predicted by the prophet Micah, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over all Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2) It was here that the Jews expected the child of this great King David to be born. It was in Bethlehem that God's Anointed One was to come into the world. As we sat in that room, I was reminded of the cave that is shown in Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus, a unique child born in such an ordinary place, not a king's palace. If we visit Bethlehem now, we find above the place the Church of the Nativity built later on after the Roman Empire became Christian early in the fourth century.

My thoughts turned back to the Scriptures as I read on, "...during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'" (Matthew 2:2) I had loved this portion of the Scriptures. The Magi, or the Wise Men, were part of the Nativity Tableaux, a major Christmas

production by our school. I had, over the years, played the part of a shepherd or some other character, but the character that I had loved most was that of the Wise Men and the gifts that they brought to Jesus. Gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, myrrh was for the one who was to die. These were the gifts the Wise Men gave to Jesus, even at his birth they foretold that He was to be the true King, the perfect High Priest, and in the end, the supreme Savior of men.

My thoughts were interrupted by a man who entered the room and sat by me. Introducing himself, he said, "My name is Shafiq Masih." I welcomed him. There was a gentleness and softness in his voice that could have come only through a radical experience in his life. "You do not really know me?" he inquired, I said, no. "Would you like me to share my testimony?" I said, yes. He began his story.

"I was a very, very bad man. I did the worst things that no one would do. I was called 'a thug'. I cheated people of their money, would promise to do things with the intention of never doing them. Somehow, I would gain the confidence of people and they would entrust me with large sums of money. I would spend the money on women, drinking and gambling. I had to drink a whole bottle of alcohol every day. Women were enticed by me, and I would gamble with other people's money. Soon, I was hated by everyone. A local pastor Iqbal Masih, would request me to come and join in a Bible study. I mocked him and said that 'I had no time for something frivolous like that.' Whenever my wife tried to stop me, I used to beat her. I became the most notorious man, and a burdened one. I had no friends. The



only person who continued to befriend me was the pastor, who gave me a cassette of the Gospel of John, which I kept away.

"I became tired of my life, my wife left me with our only son. I took to drinking more frequently to relieve myself of my burdens, but life became more burdensome. One day, in desperation, I placed the cassette of John's Gospel in the cassette player and began to hear it, until it came to the text where Jesus says, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

"The words of Christ were directed to me. I heard the words and I was ready. That encounter with Christ changed me forever. Yes, I was changed that night. Jesus Christ changed me completely and totally. He changed me in ways I could never have changed on my own. I had a new reason to live. He helped me to do the right things. He gave me a new heart. I went to others, people I had so grievously wronged and begged their forgiveness. I gave up drinking. I brought my wife home and am now a deacon in my church. I plead with those who do not know Christ to come to Him. I arrange Bible studies and share my testimony."

It was hard for me to stop Shafiq Masih. He had been gloriously freed. God in Jesus Christ had intervened with His forgiveness, with His mercy, with His power. How grateful I was to see this change, in a person who had turned away from his wicked ways and Christ in His holy power had embraced and transformed this man forever. Shafiq's tears were visible as he trembled, stating, "I do not know what I can do without Christ. He has given me hope and joy and life has become

meaningful, purposeful and enjoyable. People now respect and trust me."

The Wise Men brought gold as a gift. It is stated that kings in olden times accepted only gold as a gift. Gold, the king of metals, was a fit gift for this King of Kings. Jesus was born to be a king. But He was not going to rule by force, but by love; and He would rule over men's hearts, not from a throne, but from a cross. The second gift was that of frankincense—the gift for a priest. The priest is the man who builds a bridge between men and God. This is what Jesus did. He opened the way to God. Shafiq was able to change his life as Christ opened the way to Him. Finally, myrrh was used to embalm the bodies of the dead. Jesus came into the world to die.

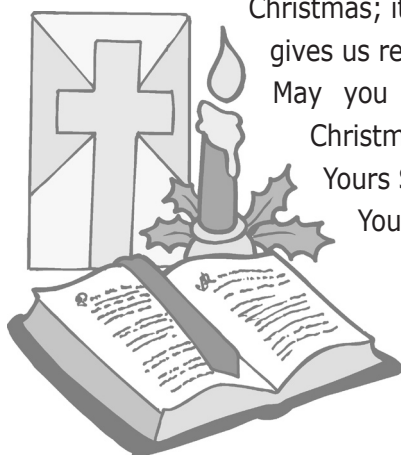
Jesus came into the world to live and die for men. But through His life the baby born in swaddling clothes announces joy to the world. Life for many is grim and hopeless. We continue to receive unhappy news from all over the world every day through the media. It is the message of Christmas that Jesus Christ gives hope and joy in times like these. Life becomes meaningful, purposeful and satisfying. In the birth of Jesus Christ, God is saying loudly and clearly that He desires friendship and reconciliation with human beings. The good news is that the babe of Bethlehem unites those who trust Him with God.

I invite you today to, like the early disciples, leave everything and follow Him. They were so effective in their following Him, that an entire civilization was forged that followed His footsteps. This civilization reflected His justice and righteousness, and has led the world. The life of Jesus Christ is so compelling that all those who have seen Him clearly, realize that his marvelous grace touches us in every hour of our lives, blessing us, challenging us, and guarding us so that our lives glorify Him. As you celebrate Christmas this year, as you see a manger scene, stop and rejoice because God sent His Son, born of a virgin, His ultimate gift, into the world as a baby. Celebrate

Christmas; it announces the birth of the One who gives us real life.

May you have a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Yours Sincerely in Jesus,
Younis & Surriya Farhat





First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta

cordially invites you
to

NATIVITY ON THE MARIETTA SQUARE

Saturday, December 22, 2007

5:00 pm

***Taking Christ to the Public
Square in Marietta***

Please join us as we sing carols in
downtown Marietta!

Celebrate the **CHRIST** of Christmas
publicly

Greater Chattanooga Asian Indian Christmas Celebration

Celebrations will include

- Carol Singing and Music •
- Gifts for Children •
- Delicious Indian/Pakistani Dinner •
- A Wonderful Fellowship •

Please join us in celebrating Christmas with
Family and Friends in Greater Chattanooga!

**Friday, December 14, 2007
5:00 p.m.**

SPECIAL CAROL SINGING

**You Are Cordially Invited
To The Home of
Dr. Sujaya & Mrs. James Tomlinson
on Friday, December 21, 2007
at 7:00 pm**



**Carol Singing
Will Be Followed
By A Special
Christmas
Dinner
Everyone Is
Invited**

LOCATION

2470 Wrangler Dr., S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30331
R.S.V.P. Dr. Sujaya James Tomlinson
Home Phone (404)344-7342 Cell (214)924-5318

For more information and details, kindly contact:

Rev. Younis Farhat

Phone: **770-516-5751**, 770-422-2566

Fax: 770-423-0125

First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta

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Marietta, GA 30066

sfarhat@hotmail.com, aibc@comcast.net

www.faibc.org



**First Asian Indian
Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta
Wishes You**

A Very Happy Christmas

And Invites You To

**Christmas Day
Celebrations**

**Tuesday, December 25, 2007
11:30 a.m.**

**Join Us With Your Family and
Celebrate the
Happiest Day of the Year!**

*Please Do Not Miss This
Joyous Occasion!*

Christmas Day Celebrations Include

- Special Christmas Music and Singing
- Gifts for everyone including a Calendar for the New Year
- A Delicious Indian/Pakistani Luncheon (Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian)
- A Warm and Loving Fellowship
- A Great Worship Experience
- Special Guests
- and Much, Much More!



For more information and details, kindly contact:

Rev. Younis Farhat

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Phone: 770-516-5751, 770-422-2566 • Fax: 770-423-0125

sfarhat@hotmail.com, aibc@comcast.net • www.faibc.org



A Midnight Service and Celebration

Welcome the New Year!
Tuesday, December 31, 2007
11:30 p.m.

For Information and Details,
Kindly Contact Pastor Younis Farhat

2008



First Asian Indian Baptist Church
of Metro Atlanta

**Wishes Everyone
A Very Happy and Blessed
New Year 2008**

**And Cordially Invites You
To A Wonderful**

**New Year's Day Celebration
on Tuesday, January 1, 2008
11:30 a.m.**

Celebrations Include:

- A Worship Service to welcome the New Year
- Anointed Singing and Music
- A Delicious Indian/Pakistani Luncheon (Vegetarian/Non-Vegetarian)
- Birthday Celebrations of Jimi Malik and Ray Charles
- Fun for the family and children

For more information and details,
kindly contact:

Rev. Younis Farhat

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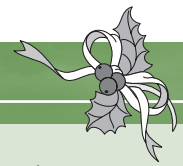
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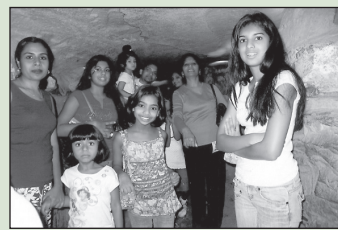
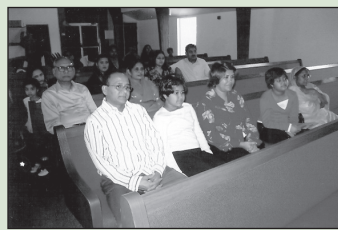
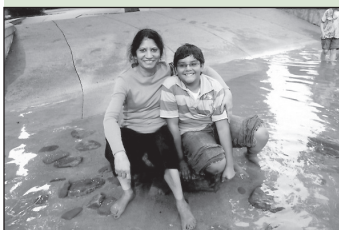
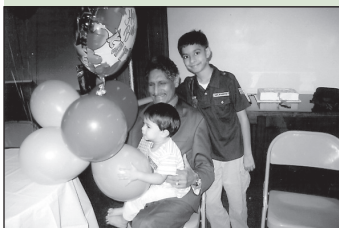
www.faibc.org



Begin your New Year by learning to know of
"The Real Necessities of Life" which will make
year 2008 rich and meaningful. Contact Pastor
Farhat for more information and details.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the FAIBC Family



**Celebrating the Joy of Christmas 2007
And New Year 2008**

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 2, 2007

11:30 am The Lord's Supper/Holy Communion followed by Luncheon

Tuesday, December 6, 2007

6:00 pm Bible Study/Prayer Meeting at the home of Aruna Golapalli

Saturday/Sunday, December 8/9, 2007

5:00 pm Celebrate Home for the Holidays from 5-8:30pm

Sunday, December 9, 2007

11:30 am Christmas Carols and message "The Good Shepherd of Christmas," by Pastor Farhat

Friday, December 14, 2007

6:00 pm Christmas Celebrations in Greater Chattanooga at First Baptist, Lakeview

Sunday, December 16, 2007

11:30 am Christmas Celebrations including Carols and Drama

Friday, December 21, 2007

7:00 pm Carol Singing at the Sujaya residence

Saturday, December 22, 2007

5:00 pm Carol Singing in Marietta Square - Celebrating Christ Publicly

Sunday, December 23, 2007

11:30 pm Christmas Worship Experience and message "Where is Christmas" by Pastor Farhat

Monday, December 24, 2007

6:00 pm Please join us at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Piedmont Baptist Church

Tuesday, December 25, 2007

11:30 am Christmas Day Celebration in co-operation with the Asian Indian community

Sunday, December 30, 2007

11:30 am Worship service

Monday, December 31, 2007

11:30 pm Midnight Service to welcome the New Year

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

11:30 am New Year's Day Celebrations and celebrating birthdays of Jimi Malik and Ray Charles

About Our Church

Come and experience the warm and friendly fellowship of the congregation of the **First Asian Indian Baptist Church of Metro Atlanta**, a church where the only language known is the language of love, and is committed to

- † Genuinely loving you
- † Truly caring for your needs
- † Teaching and practicing the timeless truths of the Holy Scriptures

and is ministered personally by an experienced and internationally-known pastor and his devoted congregation

Good News

**Join Us This Sunday
and Every Sunday
at 11:30 a.m.**

For a great worship experience

- Invite your friends - Americans, Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, and Nepalese
- Sunday School for everyone toddlers thru adults following worship service

For more information and details, kindly contact:

Rev. Younis Farhat

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The First Asian Indian Baptist Church is dependent on your generous support for this ministry to reach out to the South Asian residents of metro Atlanta with the good news and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Your gifts may be sent to the church Treasurer:

Mrs. Sushma Dersch
2931 Summit Top Rd.
Marietta, GA 30066

