



Slowing Down to See Emmanuel

Dear Turlock Christian Families,

At this point in December, we are fully immersed in the season of Christmas, with all its beautiful trappings. Decorations delight our eyes, treats fill our homes, songs stir cherished memories, gifts are chosen with care, and for us as Christians, most importantly, our hearts turn in grateful worship for God's greatest gift: His Son.

When we think of gifts, we often think of children. They carefully make their lists, wake early with eager anticipation on Christmas morning, and express their gratitude with wide smiles and joyful words. At the same time, we are surrounded by the world's messages telling us what we need to buy, promising that more spending, more sparkle, and more activity will somehow bring more happiness, more fulfillment, more joy.

But God is different.

Take a moment - and let's focus on that.

God's gift is not transactional. He asks for nothing in return. Because of His deep love for His creation, His gift is selfless and transformative. Scripture reminds us,

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

II Corinthians 9:15

Through the giving of His Son, God changed the world. He made a way for us to receive what we could never earn on our own, eternal life with Him. What pleases Him is not a trade or transaction, but surrendered hearts; a desire to love Him, to know Him, and to place Him above all else.

At Turlock Christian, our heart's desire is that this truth is never missed, by our students or by their families - especially during this Christmas season.

If you or your family do not yet know Him, or if your relationship with Him feels distant, I encourage you to ask God to reveal Himself to you. One simple place to begin this Christmas season is by reading the Bible, perhaps starting with the Gospel of Luke, which beautifully tells the story of Jesus' birth and His mission. Jesus was sent not to condemn us, but to offer salvation - a way back into right relationship with Him, our Creator.

As we head into Christmas break and step fully into this season of celebration, may we pause amid both the noise, rush, and the joy to behold the holy exchange at the heart of Christmas. God, in His boundless love, gave His Son, opening the way back into relationship with Him. And in return, we bring not riches or achievements, but our hearts - surrendered, trusting, and fully offered to Christ. This is the true gift of Christmas: God drawing near to us, and we choosing to draw near to Him.

In Faith, Family and Future,

Johanna Fischer
TC Board Chair

