

# LOVE NOTES

## COVERING THE EARTH WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS

THIRD &amp; FOURTH QUARTER 2011

### ROOM AT THE INN

In Luke 2, the Bible says that there was no room for Jesus in the inn. Every Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ with gifts, decorations, songs and lights, but we don't consider how difficult it was for them, or how difficult it is for many now who have no place to go during this season.

On Sunday, December 25, come to the Inn at Vessels of His Love Church. There will be praise, fellowship, joy and thanksgiving. There will be communion, unity, love, and preaching of the Word of God.

And there will definitely be room at the Inn.

By definition, an altar is simply a place of slaughter or sacrifice. Christ died for us on the altar of the Cross at Calvary, therefore, the altar is also a place of commemoration and worship.

Altars were the center of worship

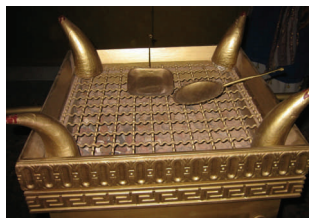


in the Old Testament, but they are rendered obsolete in the New. Why? Because the perfect lamb has now been slaughtered, and the sacrificial atonement for sin is now complete.

So does that mean that we should no longer build altars? No. As mentioned earlier, the altar is also meant for commemoration and worship. In fact, every altar mentioned in the Bible brought remembrance to an act or promise of God, and was built for the purpose of worshiping God and giving Him thanks.

So what does that mean for us? To me, it means we should always leave ourselves reminders of the promises God made us at the place where He gave the promise. It also means we should do the same at the place we made promises to Him and ourselves.

What have you promised God? What about yourself? Why can't you seem to keep the promise? Because you have yet to crucify your carnal nature.



Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ

lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (NKJV)



The Cross is the ultimate altar, because that is where Christ

paid the ultimate price. Whenever God shows favor in your life, you should build an altar. Wherever you make a promise to God, you should build an altar. The best altar is a Cross. It will be a reminder to crucify your flesh and cleanse your temple, and it will serve as a memorial of His faithfulness and a catalyst for your worship.

### CHANGE

"Change is a constant," at least that is how the saying goes. As a math major, I tend to see it a bit differently. Stability needs to be the constant, with change as a variable in the equation. It's how you solve for "X," that variable of change, that determines your success or failure.

In 2011, Vessels has had a lot of change, and it has proven to

be a variable that is difficult to solve. We let go of 2 pastoral staff members, ended a 6-year run on radio, hired and released a worship leader, and are now in the midst of a mission statement overhaul.

How do you maintain stability with so many changes going on? You must solve for "X." Although solutions may vary, you always

find the answer the same way: in prayer and communion with the Master. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7, NKJV

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*Our mission is Luke 4:18-19*

## **VESSELS OF HIS LOVE CHURCH**

533 W. Front Street  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
P.O. Box 1231  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
Phone: 630-681-7020  
Outside IL: 1-866-WE-TOUCH  
Fax: 630-668-7670  
Email: [info@vesselsofhislove.org](mailto:info@vesselsofhislove.org)



*Pastor Devin and  
Lisa Leftwich*

## **NEW YEARS' REVOLUTION**

As the final weeks and days of the year wind down, we invariably begin to think about what we want to do differently in the coming year; what we want to make as our New Years' resolutions.

Every year we resolve to be better at a list of things—usually the same things every year—but within 2 months we utterly fail, leaving it for our next years' resolution.

This year, instead of a New Years' resolution, we should have a New Years' revolution. The Bible says that in order to come to Christ, you must be born again. In other words, you must be a new person entirely.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

When Christ came to earth to be born as a human baby, it was a revolution. He stripped himself of His heavenly glory so that He could be reborn to save a fallen Man.

When we come to Christ, we must truly have a similar revolution. We must strip ourselves of our earthly glory so that we can be reborn and join a risen King.

Christ's death for our sins could not have happened without a rebirth. He had to *choose* to come as a baby. Then He had to choose how to live: to discipline His flesh. It's all about dying to self, putting your body under submission for a closer communion with the Lord. You must revolt against your old self; a mutiny against the flesh that cannot be stopped.

On January 2-22, Vessels will have it's annual Daniel Fast where we put our body under subjection, and focus on coming closer to God. It is not easy, but it is fulfilling.

We take this fast from Daniel 10:2-3 where we abstain from meat, bread and sweets while drinking only water. It is really more of a discipline than a fast, but either way it is a time of dedicated service to the Lord.

So consider joining us in this revolution. Build an altar in front of your fridge to remind you that you can have victory over the flesh. Build others elsewhere to remind you to spend time on your knees. It's time to overthrow the ruler of this world. It's time for a New Years' revolution!

## **STATEMENT OF BELIEFS**

1. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He was crucified and buried, and on the third day He arose from the dead and ascended to His seat at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
2. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead (trinity): God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that there is only one way to God and that is through His Son Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; therefore all are in need of redemption.
5. We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ is the source of our redemption as well as a powerful weapon against the enemy.
6. We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God inspired by God. We believe that faith is action on the Word of God.
7. We believe in water baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus. We believe in the power and authority of the name of Jesus.
8. We believe in divine healing. Jesus is the healer and by His stripes we were healed.
9. We believe that all of the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 are available today to empower the church, including gifts of tongues, healings, and working of miracles.
10. We believe in the rapture; that the dead in Christ will rise first and that those who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet Jesus in the air.
11. We believe that after death, eternal life is spent either with God in heaven or apart from God in hell; where one spends eternity is based on one's relationship with Jesus Christ.
12. We believe in tithing and giving offerings. We also believe in giving alms and caring for the poor, sick, homeless, etc.