

## ***A Step Down to the N<sup>th</sup> Degree***

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...” 1 Timothy 1:15

Last year, my wife and I saw the Academy Award Best Picture of the Year movie, *Slumdog Millionaire*. It was a 2008 British film that was an adaptation of the book *Q&A* by Indian author and diplomat Vikas Sqrup. Set and filmed in India, the film tells the story of Jamal Malik, a young man from the slums of Mumbai (Bombay) who appears on the Indian version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* and exceeds people’s expectations, thereby arousing the suspicions of the famous show’s host and of law enforcement officials.

The film follows the lives of Jamal, his brother Salim, and their female friend Latika, as they survive in these slums. One of the things that moved me was the conditions they lived in, as I have kids of my own. Another powerful element of the film for me was recalling my own time in India as part of the missions team from Brooklyn Park EFC in 2006, seeing various slums in the City of Chennai. And as those two realities collided, I literally relived my India experience in sight, smell and feel, mixed with the loving concern for my children.

As I was preparing for this morning’s message, I wondered, “How many of us would literally step out of our suburban existence and into the slums of Mumbai?” I am not sure that there would be too many takers. Yet this is **exactly** what Jesus did when He *put on flesh* (John 1:14). But there is one incredible and major difference: Jesus’ step down to earth was to the N<sup>th</sup> degree. The very Eternal Son of God—Who knew no sin, created the entire world and holds it together—stepped down from eternity into time and space to save sinners like you and me! And the loving Heavenly Father allowed Jesus to do so. Unbelievable!!! I don’t think there is any way our finite minds can wrap themselves around what Christ truly did in the Incarnation. So the question to ask is, “Why did He do it?”

First Timothy 1:15 pens these incredible words: “*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*” The Word of God, “*who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*” (Philippians 2:6—8). Jesus Christ stepped down, to the unbelievable N<sup>th</sup> degree, to redeem us and “*He who knew no sin, became sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God*” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Now that’s a gift worth celebrating!

On the Journey with You,  
Pastor David M.

## ***Join a Home Small Group!***

Are you interested in a small group? You can meet new people and have an opportunity to study the Word at a deeper level. Groups meet at different locations and times throughout the week. New groups forming now!

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes! I/We would like to join a home group.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Place form in the Offering or turn in at the Information Desk.)

## ***Sunday Schedule at BPEFC***

### ***9:00 AM***

<b>Worship Service</b>	Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth to two years)	Room 100
Chicks (Birth date in 2007)	102
Lambs (Birth date in 2006)	103
Giraffes (Birth date in 2005)	104
5’s and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004)	105

### ***Adult Bible Fellowships***

Young Marrieds (and Committed Couples)	112/113
Mosaic (Multi-generational, singles/marrieds)	108/109

### ***10:30 AM***

<b>Worship Service</b>	Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth to two years)	Room 100
Chicks (Birth date in 2007)	102
Lambs (Birth date in 2006)	103
Giraffes (Birth date in 2005)	104
5’s and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004)	106
<i>K.Z. &amp; Company</i> (Grades 1—6)	Fellowship Hall
Youth Worship Service (Grades 7—12)	Youth Room

### ***Adult Bible Fellowships***

Salt (Elem. & Youth Parents)	108/109
In-Betweeners (Singles/Marrieds, 50+)	112/113
Prime Timers (Senior Adults)	114

## ***BPEFC Pastoral Staff***

**Rick Ensrud**, Senior Pastor - ext. 11

**Dan Carlson**, Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 12

**David Durey**, Executive Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 13

**Jeff Gagnon**, Executive Ministries/Missions Pastor - ext. 22

**Leane Gondek**, Children’s Ministries Director - ext. 27

**Josh Major**, Young Adult Ministries Pastor - ext. 14

**David Myles**, Community Outreach Pastor - ext. 29

**Jena Pietari**, Student Ministries Director - ext. 15

**Luke Turner**, Worship Ministries Director - ext. 37



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## Welcome to Brooklyn Park Evangelical Free Church!

We're so glad you have joined us today. Our goal is to help you connect with God in worship and connect with others in meaningful relationships. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

### Worship Services Offered:

- 9:00 AM:** Traditions
- 10:30 AM:** Multi-cultural
- 10:30 AM:** Youth Worship Service (Grades 7–12)

Guests . . . after the service, you are invited to the Guest Reception Area (in the West Foyer) to meet with staff and learn more about our church.

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## December 13, 2009—All-Church News

- **Joni & Friends Special Delivery Packages:** Pick up a package or two to deliver to someone from our church as an encouragement. Stop by the Care Kiosk today.
- **December Sermon Series:** *The Jesus Chronicles: Rediscovering the Christ of Christmas.*
- **Remembrance Tree:** Make an ornament in memory of a loved one you are missing this Christmas. Hang it on the Remembrance Tree at the Care Kiosk.
- **Seniors Luncheon:** This Wednesday, December 16, 12:00 PM. Cost: \$5.00. Bring a friend! If you plan to attend, sign up at the Information Desk TODAY.
- **Let's Go Loafing:** Saturday, December 19, 9:30 AM. Welcome new neighbors to the community. Deliver a loaf of bread and church literature. It's an easy, effective way to show that we care. Contact the Office if you are interested.
- **Baker's Square Pie Gift Certificates:** Support *Celebrate Recovery* (and its training of leaders) by purchasing \$13 pie certificates, good for specific pies, at any time. Stop by the Care Ministries Kiosk today. They make great gifts!
- **Sounds of Christmas:** Sunday, December 20, 9:00 & 10:30 AM Services, special musical numbers featuring our Celebration Choir, kids and orchestra!
- **Christmas Services:** Christmas Eve—4:30 PM Candlelight Service, featuring African Choir, *Total Praise*, AND 10:00 PM Candlelight Service featuring Tonia Hughes; Christmas Day—10:00 AM Celebration Service.
- **Second Harvest:** Please note: We will NOT be hosting a food distribution in December. The next giveaway will be Friday, **January 22**, 2010.
- **Celebration Jam Concert Event:** Saturday, January 30, 2010. Mark your calendar! Enjoy a FREE dinner at 5:30 PM and FREE concert at 7:00 PM. Don't miss a great event for your friends and family! More details to come.
- **New Member:** The Elder Board would like to present Ben Shannon to the Congregation for consideration as a new member of BPEFC. Comments can be directed to Elder Chairman, Tom Jenson.

For more information on other church news, see *News & Notes*.

## Christ: The Indescribable Gift of the Incarnation

John 1:14—18

This Christmas everyone seems to be looking for just the “right” gift. Advertisers barrage us daily with this and that “must have” gift. But what gift did the “Lover of our souls” want to give us? It was a child wrapped in swaddling clothes. But not just any ordinary child. No, this was “The One,” born fully God and fully man, about whom Paul exclaimed, “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift*” (2 Corinthians 9:15). Jesus Christ is the “must have” gift of eternity! Today you'll hear about how priceless this gift is, and what our response should be.

### What is so significant about the Incarnation?

#### I. Jesus' incarnation gave us the gift of the Eternal Word made flesh. (1:14)

##### A. Christ put on the flesh of man.

- “*And the Word became flesh...*” John 1:14
- Luke 2:7
- “The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.” – Martin Luther
  - Philippians 2:5–8
- “The Incarnation is the ‘Grand Miracle’ of Christianity.” – C.S. Lewis

##### B. Christ dwelt among us.

- “*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' which means, 'God with us.'*” Matthew 1:23
- “*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*” Hebrews 4:15
- “In Christ, God came to meet with people; through Christ we can come to meet with God.” – Bruce Barton

##### C. Christ manifested God's divine glory.

- The glory as the only Son of God – “*begotten, not created*”
- “*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...*” Colossians 2:9

#### II. Jesus' Incarnation gave the gift of grace to believers. (1:15—17)

##### A. John gives witness to Christ.

##### B. All believers' give witness to the grace of Jesus Christ.

- “*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich*” 2 Corinthians 8:9
- “*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*” Ephesians 2:8–9

#### III. Jesus' Incarnation gave us the gift of a relationship with God. (1:14b, 18)

##### A. Grace triumphed over the Law.

- Romans 3:21a
- “*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*” Romans 8:1–2

##### B. Christ, as “the image of the invisible God,” revealed God to us.

- “*There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” 1 Timothy 2:5
- “*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*” Hebrews 4:16

### Conclusion: The Response to the Gift—Worship!!!

Because of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, we have been given the gift of grace in a relationship with the Eternal God. And because of this reality, we can exclaim with Paul, “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.*”

## Weekly Calendar

(For more details, visit [www.BrooklynParkChurch.org](http://www.BrooklynParkChurch.org).)

### Sunday, December 13

5:30 PM *Alpha*, Freedom, Overview Courses

### Monday, December 14

7:00 PM *Community Bible Study*

### Tuesday, December 15

5:45–7:00 AM Intercessors' Prayer Time  
5:15 PM Prayer Gathering/W. Foyer/Join us!  
6:00 PM Support Group Meal and Worship  
7:00 PM Support Group Meetings

### Wednesday, December 16

5:45–7:00 AM Intercessors' Prayer Time  
12:00 PM Seniors Luncheon  
6:30 PM Kids *K.Z. Disciples*  
Grades 7–12 Small Groups

### Thursday, December 17

### Friday, December 18

### Saturday, December 19

9:30 AM *Let's Go Loafing!*

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## Stewardship Matters

2009—2010 Annual Budget:	1,493,000
Budget needed fiscal year-to-date:	660,376
Giving/Revenue year-to-date:	577,448
Difference in budget needed and giving YTD:	(82,928)
Weekly budget needed:	28,712
Amount received December 6:	29,671
<i>4 Our Future</i> (Capital Campaign) Commitments:	1,100,000
<i>4 Our Future</i> Giving:	443,640

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## Next Step Class

You are invited to attend the *Next Step Class* on Wednesday, January 20, from 6:00—9:00 PM, to explore ministry and membership at BPEFC. We highlight our Core Values, Beliefs, Missions, Local Ministries, Steps to Membership, and create a Personal Ministry Profile based on your personality, possessions (gifts and abilities) and passion (to help you select a place of service). After attending the class, you have the opportunity to join the church.

Yes! I'm/We're interested in attending the class on January 20.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Place form in the Offering or turn in at the Information Desk.)