

BE A BRINGER

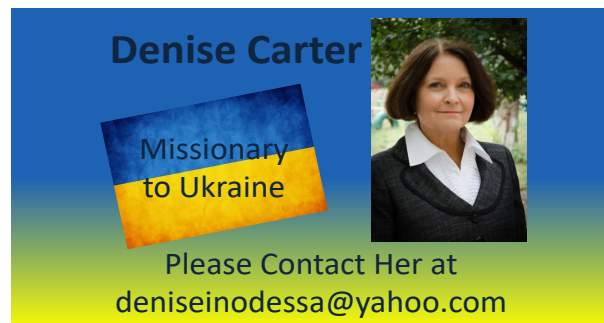
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Denise Carter
Missionary
to Ukraine
Please Contact Her at
deniseinodessa@yahoo.com

Christmas Carols

Tune Into Jesus
Starting December 10th

Handout: 12/17/17

Study: 12/24/17

Silent Night

There are several variations on the story of the writing of this hymn, but they all center on the little Church of St. Nicholas in Obendorf, a village near Salzburg, Austria, on Christmas Eve, 1818—and they all recount a church organ that wouldn’t play and a priest who was determined not to let the broken organ spoil the Christmas Eve service.

In one telling of the story, a band of roving actors came to Obendorf with their Christmas play, which so inspired Fr. Joseph Mohr that he wrote this song. In another telling of the story, when Fr. Mohr discovered that the organ was broken, he remembered a poem that he had written two years earlier. He took the poem to the church organist, Franz Gruber, who set it to music.

But the story most frequently told has Fr. Mohr discovering that the organ was broken. Distraught over the possibility that the Christmas Eve service might be ruined, he sat down and quickly wrote these verses—and then took them to Franz Gruber, who composed the music.

At this point, the facts are lost in antiquity—and the variations all support a central theme of adversity and inspiration and determination to save the evening. From that point the stories merge into one.

Fr. Mohr did write the words for this carol. Franz Gruber composed the music. It was first sung on Christmas Eve, 1818, in the Church of St. Nicholas in Obendorf, and the original accompaniment was a guitar. All the stories agree on those facts.

Later, when Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ, he heard the story and obtained a copy of the song. As he went about his business, he made the story and song known to other churches in the region.

Then a family of glovemakers—the Strasser family—came into possession of a copy of the song. As they traveled through the villages in the area selling their gloves, their children would sing songs to entertain passersby and to draw attention to their merchandise—and they added this song to their repertoire. They also sang the song at the Leipzig fair, which spread its fame further.

Then, in 1838, “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” was published in a German Catholic hymnal—and in 1839 the Rainers, another musical family from Austria, traveled to New York City, where they sang “Stille Nacht!” at Trinity Church—and German immigrants brought the song with them and sang it in their churches.

By the time of the Civil War, “Silent Night” had long since been translated into English, and was a Christmas favorite in both North and South. Today it is the best known and loved Christmas carol around the world. By Richard Neill Donovan.

KEY VERSE

Philippians 2:11

“and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Philippians 2:5-11

Introduction

1. Describe a difficult sacrifice that you have made for others.
2. Based on this passage, what are some words you would use to describe Jesus?

Tuesday: Philippians 2:5-6; John 10:31; John 1:14

Son of God, Love's Pure Light

3. Why do you think Jesus left heaven to take on human form?
4. How can we keep our focus on who Jesus is during Christmas when there are many things vying for our attention?

Wednesday: Philippians 2:7; Luke 2:6-7; Luke 2:52; Heb. 4:15

Holy Infant So Tender And Mild

5. Why do you think that Jesus came to earth as a baby?
6. What can we learn from Jesus 's example of humility?

Thursday: Philippians 2:8; I John 4:9;1 Peter 3:18

Christ the Savior is Born!

7. Why was it necessary for Jesus to come and die?
8. What gift do we receive if we accept his sacrifice?
9. How would you explain to someone what God has done for you?

Friday: Philippians 2:9-11; Luke 6:46; Romans 10:9

Jesus, Lord At Thy Birth

10. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?
11. Is Jesus your Lord? If he is Lord of your life, how does that impact your life?
12. What would it take for you to make him Lord of your life if he is not already?