

# BIBLE BAPTIST BEACON

INDEPENDENT, FUNDAMENTAL, PREMILLENIAL, KJV

The Bible Baptist Church meets at the Richfield Holiday Inn Express 5171 Brecksville Road Richfield, Ohio

## Service Schedule:

### Sunday

10:00 AM - Bible Study  
11:00 AM - Morning Service  
6:00 PM - Evening Service

### Friday

7:00 PM - Bible Study

**Phone:** (330) 659-6561

## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 452  
Richfield, Ohio 44286

## E-mail:

RichfieldBBC@gmail.com

## Find Us Online at:

- [www.BBCRichfield.com](http://www.BBCRichfield.com)
- [www.facebook.com/biblebaptistchurchrichfield/](https://www.facebook.com/biblebaptistchurchrichfield/)
- <https://usa.life/RBBC>

## Services Broadcast Online at:

- <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBYx3bQJ1GewMZjCzWEtLrA>

## Live with Pastor Al

WHKW 1220 AM & 96.9 FM

- Sundays - 11:00pm
- Fridays - 1:30pm

## Follow Online at:

- [www.LiveWithPastorAl.com](http://www.LiveWithPastorAl.com)
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- <https://parler.com/profile/LiveWithPastorAl/posts>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdrzhQJXiAAOZrcRLJVLWA>



~ Published by the Richfield Bible Baptist Church, Richfield, Ohio ~ December 2020 ~

**"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."**

**(Luke 2:10-11)**

**Merry Christmas from the Bible Baptist Church!**

## Who were the Shepherds of Bethlehem?

By Pastor Alfred B. Davis

*"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in*

*the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."*

**(Luke 2:8-12)**

Everything God does has a purpose, including the Angel's announcement of our Saviour's birth to a group of shepherds in the Bethlehem countryside.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## To Close or Not to Close?

By Pastor Alfred B. Davis

Just before Thanksgiving I ran into a local store for a few last-minute items. While there, I bumped into someone I had not seen in awhile and we talked for a few minutes. During the course of the conversation I learned that his pastor and several people in the church had had COVID-19 and that their church had been shut down for a couple of months earlier in the year.

"Was it because the pastor had the coronavirus?" I asked.

"No," he answered, "He had that later."

"Was it because of people in the church having it?"

"No, they had it later. The church shut down because of the order."

"Order? What order?" I asked.

"The order to shut down churches," he

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Coming Events at the BBC

### DECEMBER 2020

24 - 7:00pm, Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
25 - Christmas Day  
31 - New Year's Eve

### January 2021

1 - New Year's Day



## Please Note:

Use of sources, quotes, and other references does not constitute an endorsement of any publication, individual, organization, or ministry by the Richfield Bible Baptist Church, the Bible Baptist Beacon, or Pastor Davis.



## New Church Plant in Salelologa, Samoa!

### Missionary Jim Civale writes:

The Salelologa chiefs met and the results are in. They have accepted our request and approved our church! As of now, we can survey and clear our land and begin holding planning meetings with our group. However, the church will not be officially recognized and permitted to hold services in Salelologa until the chiefs' December meeting, immediately after which we will be expected to perform a cultural ceremony called a momoli. A momoli is a highly formal event in which the new church and its pastor are "delivered" to the village. Talking chiefs from our side will make highly elaborate speeches and formal presentations to the village. Orators from their side will respond and speeches will be exchanged. We will then present a large monetary gift to be distributed among the village chiefs (about seventy-five of them) along with a hundred or more cases of canned fish and corned beef, several whole cows and pigs, traditional fine mats and other items. At that time, the village can decide to reject everything and deny the church entrance or to accept it all and enter a permanent covenant to respect and protect the church and its pastor, promising to punish or even banish anyone who disrespects the pastor or damages the church property. It is hard to explain the depths and nuances of all of this in a short letter and may seem unfathomable to those unfamiliar with our culture. As we rush to prepare for the village meeting, our needs are great ... First of all, we need non-stop prayers over the next month. We may experience intense political opposition (from some village chiefs), ecclesiastical opposition (from village churches), and demonic



opposition (from the enemy of the gospel). Until the momoli occurs and is accepted, we are not truly "in" the village. Having gone through this process ten years ago, I can say with no risk of overstatement, that we need many a bended knee. Secondly, we need God's provision, including a total of over \$20,000 dollars in November for the momoli itself and another \$50,000 in December to survey our land, level the ground, and to construct a simple building. Among our five families from Salelologa who will charter the church and Asau Baptist Church who is behind them, we can meet half of this need locally, leaving \$35,000 more to pray in. We believe God can and will provide even during our local lockdown here and the global restrictions affecting many of you. Thank you for praying with us to this end. One can give on-line at [jimcivale.edifyhub.com/donate/](http://jimcivale.edifyhub.com/donate/) or by mailing a check with "Samoa Church Plant" on the memo line to ... Jim Civale #1325 / Baptist International Missions, Inc. / Attn: Accounts Receivable / P.O. Box 9 / Harrison, TN 37341 ☪

**Addendum:** The chiefs of Salelologa village, where, Lord willing, we will be starting our third church plant soon, have postponed their meeting until the third week of December, so please continue in fervent prayer. ☪

## To Close or Not to Close?

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replied.

Well, as the pastor of the Richfield Bible Baptist Church, I was reasonably sure that our church had never received such an order, so I questioned him further. He, did not know the details but was under the impression that the State of Ohio had issued some kind of order for churches to shut down last March and that his church had complied with said order. He seemed perplexed, however, when I said that our church never closed because no order closing churches in Ohio was ever given, although Gov. DeWine had strongly encouraged churches to do so.

Actually, Gov. DeWine did more than merely encourage churches to close. He tried to shame and scare churches into closing. He attempted to marginalize, denigrate, and even vilify churches who chose to continue meeting. He strongly implied that pastors and church leaders who kept their churches open were putting people at risk. He repeatedly asserted that he did not know of any pastor or religious leader that would ever put their constituents in danger of illness, harm, or death.

In doing so, Gov. DeWine showed an astounding ignorance of church history. Either that or an incredible disregard for the millions of our spiritual forefathers who suffered greatly, even to the point of death.

From the first century forward church history is marked with danger and death for Christians. Pastors and church leaders often led their people to meet in barns, caves, catacombs, forests, and remote locations so that they could worship God secretly, knowing that to be caught meant to be beaten, thrown in prison, and even killed. The Roman arenas overflowed

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Roger & Tammy Tooley  
Church Planting in England  
(Currently on the Field)

John Yingling  
General Director  
Baptist International Outreach  
Jefferson City, Tennessee

Mike & Debby Drust  
Church Planting in Albania  
(Currently on the Field)

Mt. Pisgah  
Bible Printing Ministry  
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church  
Oliver Springs, Tennessee

Jim Robideau  
Lighthouse Legal Ministries  
@ Lighthouse Baptist Church  
Ashtabula, Ohio

Jim & Emi Civale  
Church Planting in the  
Samoan Islands  
(Currently on the Field)

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## Words Worth Considering...



You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell Him you have received His Christmas gift. —John R. Rice

The greatest and most momentous fact which the history of the world records is the fact of Christ's birth.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king." Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!

—Charles Wesley

It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom.

—Horace Greeley

Our founders conceived this country for characters of conscience, placing faith in individual sovereignty and trusting that each unique person subscribed to the communal, biblical morality. Now those bonds between nation and individual, between citizen and morality, have eroded. We gradually accepted the chains, tacitly established our enslavement, and willingly sacrificed our sacred, God-given liberty.

—Sam Sorbo

The post-Christian left has been preparing Americans for the unfounding of the U.S.

—John Zmirak

A Republic must either reserve its Virtue or lose its Liberty.

—John Witherspoon, Signer of Declaration of Independence

Bible reading is an education in itself.

—Lord Alfred Tennyson

Back in August, Apple became the first company on earth to reach a market value of \$2 trillion, even as the world remained besieged by the coronavirus. Hot on its heels are Microsoft (\$1.6 trillion), Amazon (\$1.59 trillion), Google (\$1.2 trillion), and Facebook (\$789 billion). For perspective's sake, it should be noted there are only 17 countries in the entire world whose GDPs are larger than these five mega-corporations. Mega-corporations that, along with their globalist-minded allies, have little use for the rules and regulations these "pesky" nation-states can impose on them. Hence, they and their equally corrupt media allies are bent on imposing a new world order called "The Great Reset." It is nothing less than George Orwell's 1984 — on steroids.

—Arnold Ahlert



## MINISTRY FOCUS



### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

Christmas is a busy time of year for most of us. In addition, coronavirus and the various county and state slowdowns, shutdowns, curfews, and assorted health and safety mandates are making holiday plans more complicated and convoluted than normal. Consequently, we understand that not everybody can make it to every activity and service.

Nevertheless, our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is still on track. It will be on Thursday, December 24, at 7:00pm. Bring a plate of cookies, if you can, and join us as we sing some Christmas carols, share a few memories and blessings of the past year, and listen to a reading of *The Birth of Christ as Recorded in the Scriptures*.

Christmas Day, this year, falls on a Friday. Although we have no special services planned for Christmas Day, we will still be meeting at 7:00pm for our regular Friday night Bible study. (It is also another opportunity to enjoy some Christmas cookies!)

We have no plans for New Year's Eve. However, we will still be meeting on New Year's Day for our weekly Friday Bible study. (Rumor has it that there may be some pork and sauerkraut on hand...)



### YOUTUBE VIDEOS & LIVE STREAMING

If you cannot make it to our church services and Bible studies, you can watch live online. Our services are live streamed on YouTube and shared live to our Facebook page. You can also view past services on our YouTube channel as well.

There are 2 ways to find us. First, is to go to YouTube and search for our channel. Go to YouTube.com and then enter "Richfield Bible Baptist Church" in the search box. Alternatively, you could go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBYx3bQJ1GewMZjCzWetLrA>. Once you find our channel, you can click on the live feed or any of the previous videos there. You can even subscribe to our channel to make it easier in the future.

The second way is to go to our Facebook page during service or Bible study times. Since we share the YouTube video onto our Facebook page, you can go there and click on the link. Go to [www.facebook.com/biblebaptistchurchrichfield](https://www.facebook.com/biblebaptistchurchrichfield). Once there, click on the post featuring the "Click here to watch" picture.

You can also listen to our radio programs live on line as well. They, like our church services and Bible studies are available on YouTube and Facebook as well. They are also available on the radio station's website.

Again, go to YouTube.com and search for "Live with Pastor Al" or go direct to: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdrzhQ-JXiAA0ZrcRLJVLWA>. Once there you can listen to the live feed or any of the previous programs there. You can also subscribe to our channel there to make it easier in the future.

Or, you can go to [www.facebook.com/LiveWithPastorAl](https://www.facebook.com/LiveWithPastorAl) and click on the post featuring the "Click here to watch" picture.

A third way to listen live is to go direct to the 1220 WHKW website at: <https://thewordcleveland.com/>.

Of course, however you listen to our church service, Bible studies, or radio programs, we hope that they will be a blessing to you. Please share them with a friend as well!

**Click here to watch**

**Bible Baptist Church**

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*  
—Romans 10:17

**Richfield, Ohio**

**Click here to watch**

**Live with Pastor Al**

**ON AIR**

WHKW  
1220AM & 96.9FM



## To Close or Not to Close?

(Continued from page 2)

with Christians being torn apart by lions because they would not bow to Caesar and call him a god. Medieval dungeons were filled with Christians awaiting tortures and executions because they dared to worship outside of the official State Church. Russian gulags were the dumping grounds for Christians who refused to bow to the State and met in underground churches during the Twentieth Century. Christians in Muslim countries continue to meet knowing full well the penalties could include terrorist attacks, beatings, imprisonment, and death. Today, Chinese Christians continue to worship God, despite Communist Chinese Government demands that they bow down to the State or face imprisonment, reeducation camps, and death.

Apparently, Gov. DeWine is either ignorant of or does not care about the long history of Christian suffering and death for the cause of Christ. He is either blind of or dismissive to the sufferings of Christians down through history and in our present day when he says that he does not know of any pastor or religious leader that would ever put their constituents in danger of illness, harm, or death. (Maybe someone should send the Governor a copy of Foxe's Book of Martyrs!)

Currently, we are under a "slowdown" with curfews in Ohio and the Governor is encouraging churches to limit attendance. There is still concern, however, that he might call for another shutdown. If he does, then I am sure that he will once again strongly encourage churches to shut down and many will. For those who do not, I am sure he will once again attempt to shame and scare them into shutting down.

Now, I don't want to be the pastor of a church that meets across the street from the ocean (like our church in American Samoa) who refuses to cancel services during a

hurricane when a 20-30 foot storm surge is coming. Nor do I want to be the pastor who cancels church services without question just because he is told to. After all, there are many times and places, from the first century to the present, where going to church could cost you your life, whether by sword or disease, bullet or microbe, and yet God's people still chose to meet.

Suspending meetings for a time should be a prayerful decision of the pastor and members of churches, not the heavy-handed edict of power-hungry government officials. While defending the First Amendment is an important reason for defying government orders, the greater reason, for many pastors and churches, is obedience to God's Word:

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

This is why churches down through the ages have continued to meet despite governmental threats of fines, imprisonment, and martyrdom. This is why churches have met during dangerous times where disease, civil unrest, and religious strife threatened their very existence.

Yes, there are from time to time stubborn, stiff necked pastors, motivated by personal animosity and grandiosity, who deliberately and flagrantly rail against anything that has to do with the government. But then again, there are government



*11 November 2020 was the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower Compact, signed on 11 November 1620*

### The Mayflower Compact

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King defender of the Faith, etc.:

Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another; covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue thereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, 1620.

### Who were the Shepherds of Bethlehem?

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This was not just any ordinary group of shepherds, however. These were priestly shepherds overseeing the birth of lambs to be sacrificed in the Temple. In fact, in his book, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Alfred Edersheim writes in Chapter 6, *The Nativity of Jesus the Messiah*,

"That the Messiah was to



## To Close or Not to Close?

(Continued from page 4)

officials, motivated by personal animosity and grandiosity, who deliberately and flagrantly rail against God's people.

First Amendment or not, many of us agree with Peter and the other apostles who said in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

So then, what will we do if Gov. DeWine, or, as is more likely, the county health commissar, declare a shutdown and orders churches to close? Well, we will

follow the First Amendment, the Ohio Constitution, and the Word of God and continue to meet and worship God as a Body of Believers. If there are compelling reasons to close down for a short time due to myself or others becoming sick, we will exercise common sense and do what needs to be done

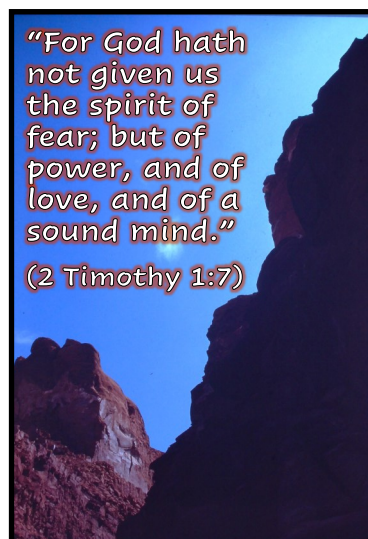
In the meanwhile, we will continue to do our best to lift up and glorify our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in all that we do. We will do our best to use common sense practices to keep people safe in the face of flu,



coronavirus, and other illnesses, while keeping things in perspective. We will, of course, continue to encourage those who at risk due to age, health, or other risk factors to take precautions and not come to services if you feel at risk. We will also continue to ask that those who do not feel well, are running a fever, or have tested positive for coronavirus or live with someone who has tested positive not to attend services.

COVID-19, like the flu, does kill people but the mortality rate is less than 1% for most people. In fact, according to the CDC, only about 6% of all COVID-19 deaths are attributed to only the coronavirus. In the other 94% of deaths, coronavirus is a co-factor or a contributing factor. So, as we face both Christmas and a potential shutdown, let us keep things in perspective and not panic, take reasonable precautions, and remember what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:7:

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." †



## Who were the Shepherds of Bethlehem?

(Continued from page 4)

be born in Bethlehem, was a settled conviction. Equally so was the belief, that He was to be revealed from Migdal Eder, 'the tower of the flock.' This Migdal Eder was not the watchtower for the ordinary flocks which pastured on the barren sheep-ground beyond Bethlehem, but lay close to the town, on the road to Jerusalem. A passage in the Mishnah leads to the conclusion, that the flocks, which pastured there, were destined for Temple-sacrifices."

This is because of a prophecy in Micah 4:8, which says, "And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem."

The "tower of the flock" in Micah 4:8 refers to the Migdal Eder outside of Bethlehem, which Micah 5:2 identifies as the birthplace of the Messiah: "But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little



among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

It was at Migdal Eder that the priestly shepherds oversaw the birth of lambs to be offered up as sacrifices in the Temple. As the lambs were born the shepherds carefully inspected them and then, if they were acceptable, wrapped cloths around them and laid them aside in mangers to protect and calm them while setting them apart from the other lambs. Imagine then the significance of the angel's announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2:11-12:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

These shepherds, more than any others, could appreciate the significance of Baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger. Because He was, after all, set apart to be our Sacrifice.

And that is the greatest Christmas gift of all. †

<p><b>GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WHO IS GOOD?</b> "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10)</li> <li>• <b>WHO HAS SINNED?</b> "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)</li> <li>• <b>WHERE DID SIN COME FROM?</b> "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)</li> <li>• <b>WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR SIN?</b> "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)</li> <li>• <b>WHAT IS OUR HOPE?</b> "But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)</li> <li>• <b>WHAT SHOULD WE DO?</b> "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)</li> <li>• "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SERVICES OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday School 10:00 AM</li> <li>• Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 AM</li> <li>• Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM</li> <li>• Wednesday Evening Prayer Service 7:00 PM</li> <li>• (Call for meeting location)</li> <li>• Friday Bible Study 7:00 PM</li> </ul> <p><b>MINISTRIES OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible Studies &amp; Expository Preaching</li> <li>• World Missions &amp; Local Evangelism</li> <li>• Nursing Home Outreach</li> <li>• Internet Outreach: BBCRichfield.com</li> <li>• Radio Outreach Ministry on WHKW 1220 AM:</li> <li>• "Late Night Live with Pastor Al" — Sunday, 11:00 PM</li> <li>• "Live With Pastor Al" — Friday 1:30 PM</li> </ul> <p><b>LOCATION OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bible Baptist Church meets at the Richfield Holiday Inn Express, located at 5171 Brecksville Road, in Richfield, Ohio.</li> <li>• We are located on State Route 21 just off I-77 exit 146, north of the Ohio Turnpike (I-80) exit 173. The Richfield Holiday Inn Express is located next to the Pilot Truck Stop.</li> </ul>
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**THE BIBLE BAPTIST BEACON**

A PUBLICATION OF  
**Richfield Bible Baptist Church**  
P.O. Box 452  
Richfield, OH 44286  
BBCRichfield.com

**Meeting at the Richfield Holiday Inn Express**  
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Listen to...  
**Live with Pastor Al**  
Sundays at 11:00 PM & Fridays at 1:30 PM  
on AM 1220 WHKW (Cleveland)  
LiveWithPastorAl.com



*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;  
and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (Psalms 33:12)*