



preacher's podium

“Here at Kingsway we make no apology
for being politically incorrect.”

I'm writing on Saturday night. The snow is falling and it is beautiful. Actually, the last couple of days have been beautiful. Christmas Eve has always been special at Kingsway. This Christmas Eve was the most special yet. Oh, I know, the fact it was my last Christmas Eve service as your pastor made it all the more special for Jan and me. However, the largest crowd ever shoehorned into our Worship Center, approximately 1,600, also made it special. The chamber ensemble sounded the best they've ever sounded, and that's saying a lot. They had prepared lots of new arrangements of special songs of the season. Worship was led by Daniel Shelton, one of our Timothys who is now a Music and Worship Pastor in Springfield, Illinois. He was joined by two other incredibly talented young men we are proud to call our own, Jeremy Noel and Tommy Featheringill. They sang together like they had been doing so all their lives. Their presentation of *Hallowed Manger Ground* was simply thrilling. I was privileged to bring yet another message in our series on *The Gift*, “Jesus Gave Himself.” Perhaps the best part of all was the love of Christ and each other that was so evident after the service in a lengthy time of sharing. It seemed like no one wanted to leave.

I don't know how Christmas Day could have been more perfect for the Caldwells. Jan and I are so blessed to have a family where we all love each other, like to be with each other, and get along. As a pastor, I'm acutely aware that often isn't the case, and we don't take it for granted. All our immediate family was at our house. Jan prepared a delicious Christmas lunch. Jack quoted the whole Luke 2 Christmas story. There was a birthday cake for Jesus complete with candles, and the singing of happy birthday. We all take our time opening gifts; and the best part is watching our grandsons open theirs. Jan and I had exchanged gifts early in the morning and Jan gave me a gift I will always treasure, and maybe someday I'll tell you the story behind it. Will's favorite gift was a whoopee cushion from his uncle Darren. Later in the evening, we feasted on the pot of stew Jan had cooking all day, along with pumpkin pie and lots of goodies our Kingsway family had provided. After the kids and grandkids left late that evening, a very contented Granny and PawPaw settled down together to enjoy one more of our favorite Christmas movies, *Holiday Inn*. I am so blessed! Christmas was wonderful, and many of you helped to make it so. Thank you for every card, every bag of goodies, all the fruit, every gift, every hug and “Merry Christmas,” and every ounce of love you sent our way.

I got a kick out of “A Politically Correct Christmas Wish” sent out by Group Publishing.

We wanted to send out some sort of holiday greeting, but it is so difficult in today's world to know exactly what to say without offending someone. So we met with our attorney, and on his advice we want to say to all of you: Please accept with no obligation,

implied or implicit, our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all. We also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2010, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only 'America' in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, or sexual preference of the wishee.”

There's more but you get the idea.

Here at Kingsway we make no apology for being politically incorrect. It is certainly not our intention to offend, but we know the truth will always be offensive to some people. Here are just a few truths that some will find offensive and thus reject. The Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God. Adam and Eve were literally our first parents and their sin in the Garden brought into existence negative consequences, not the least of which is death. All people are sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus Christ, God's Son, came into the world to be that Savior. There is no salvation apart from Christ; He is man's only means of access to God. Sin is universal, Satan is real, judgment is certain, hell is awful, eternity is forever, and hopelessness is the ultimate horror. On the other hand, salvation is free, forgiveness is unconditional, God's grace is sufficient, heaven is wonderful, and life with Christ is the ultimate fulfillment. Again, there's more, but you get the idea.

Over the years to come there will no doubt be many changes at Kingsway as we try to reach an ever-changing world. However, I believe, trust, and pray that political correctness will never be a concern of this church and that the truth will never be compromised. Instead, may “REAL – PASSIONATE – TRUTH” always characterize Kingsway Christian Church.

Start 2010 out right. Join us for worship at any of our four services next weekend: Saturday at 6:00 p.m., Sunday at 8:00, 9:00, or 10:30 a.m., when our theme will be “Out With the Old and In With the New.”

Yours for a soul-winning church,

John



kingsway

c h r i s t i a n c h u r c h

real • passionate • truth

7981 E. County Road 100 N.

Avon, IN 46123

kingswaychurch.org

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decisions for Christ

- Chrissy Stoehr was baptized.
- Tori Graat and Faith Hall were baptized and placed membership.
- Scott, Colleen, Brandon and Bryce Lee transferred their membership to Kingsway.

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glimpse of growth

Preaching and Praise	1,648	<u>General Offering</u>	
Bible School	419	Weekly Budget	\$98,731
Decisions	7	Given this Week	\$121,891
New Members YTD	236		

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