



Love is a choice.

Suffering and joy go hand in hand.

Happiness is circumstantial. Joy is incarnational.

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. **Matt. 1:18-19 NLT**

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **Matt. 1:20-21 NLT**

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” **Matt. 1:22-23 NLT**

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. **Matt. 1:24-25 NLT**

1. We can choose to be right or choose to be righteous.

Rightness is justifying yourself, righteousness is Jesus justifying us.

2. We can choose to manage expectations or choose to pursue God given dreams.

The obedience is harder than the dream.

3. We can choose to be in a place of retreat or choose to be in a place of pursuit.

Joy is not based on our circumstances, joy is based on the presence of God.

Dec. 13, 2015

A promotional banner for the 2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The banner is divided into two main sections. The left section has a dark blue background with the text "BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS" in large, white, sans-serif font. Above this text, in a smaller orange box, it says "2015 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING" and "WEEK OF PRAYER • NOV. 29 - DEC. 6". The right section has a dark blue background with the text "... AND BECAUSE YOU GIVE, IMB HELPS CHURCHES SEND MISSIONARIES TO THE BILLIONS WHO HAVE YET TO HEAR." in white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, there is the "imb" logo and the text "PRAY • GIVE • GO • SEND • imb.org".