



# Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

DECEMBER 2019



## O Christmas Tree

**"O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your boughs can teach a lesson"** declares the ancient carol "O Tannenbaum". In the 16th Century this was true when, according to tradition, Martin Luther was the first person to bring a Christmas Tree into a home. The story is told that, one night while walking through the forest, he saw the stars shining through the branches of a tree. It was so beautiful, that he went home and told his children that it reminded him of Jesus, who left the stars of heaven to come to earth at Christmas.

Now, in 2019, NICE Pastor, Beau Floyd and Emmaus Road Church are using a Christmas tree to again "teach a lesson". For the past 45 years, Idaho Falls has hosted the fundraiser, *Festival of Trees*. According to Idaho Falls Magazine, "The Festival of Trees ... has been a community tradition for years. Exquisitely decorated Christmas trees are the main attraction of the Festival. These trees are available for business and individuals to purchase." All proceeds go to The Development Workshop, a local nonprofit that provides employment and skill training for people with disabilities.

For the second year, Emmaus Road Church has donated one of the 90 decorated trees. In fact, they are the only church that has taken part. Pastor Beau explained the purpose of their involvement, "Our primary goal is to be a blessing to those people who are a part of the special-needs community. Also, as the Festival of Trees event is widely attended by residents from all over Eastern Idaho, our tree is somewhat of an advertisement for Emmaus Road



Emmaus Road Church members decorating their tree last year.



*Church. Finally, our tree is explicitly Christian, and glorifies Christ with Scripture decorations, and our hope is that people will see our tree and be exposed to the truth of Scripture, and may be drawn to Christ."*

The theme of the Emmaus Road Church tree last year was "Heaven and Nature Sing" while this year's tree is more rugged in design and is called "Go Tell It On The Mountain". Last year, the church family was thrilled to be one of the first trees purchased, bringing around \$2000 for the non-profit organization! And especially satisfying was knowing that the message of Christ was going into a non-believer's home. Even before the event, the organizers and decorators commented on the fact that while most had one or two people doing a tree, Emmaus Road had around 15! Pastor Beau and Kimberly Floyd have been praying that this year's tree will also "teach a lesson" with its boughs ... the lesson of Christ coming from Heaven to earth to save sinful man.



**So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.** I Corinthians 3:7