

2009 DECEMBER



DEC. 16TH, 6:00
PM



DEC. 24TH, 6:30PM

VOLUME 6 - ISSUE 8

CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE

571 N. NORMA ST.
RIDGECREST, CA 93555
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THE MESSENGER

"A Family Place of New Beginnings"
Ridgecrest Church of the Nazarene

Pastor's Notes For December

It's an Amazing feeling! Christmas is coming! You can feel it in the air, you can hear it in the music, you can see it on TV, it's evident on people's faces, the stores look different, the lights, the music, the bells, the trees, the decorations, people are really expecting something good!

All these wonderful scenes of Christmas are not signs of despair. I mean, after all, people get sick of war, killings, disasters, tragedies, political infighting, deceitful political leaders, wickedness in high places, of people living without any sense of moral goodness, and a world that has lost it's moral compass. People get tired of poverty, overbearing taxes, and a lack of decency and respect for human life!

THAT WAS THE KIND OF WORLD THAT JESUS CAME INTO! I MEAN Matthew 2 tells us that King Herod flew into a rage and ordered the slaughter of all the little boys under 2 years of age! Do you supposed those soldiers checked birth certificates or do you think there were thousands who were 3 or 4 that were slaughtered? After all, King Herod, the highest-ranking official in the land ordered it! Oh it really was a dark day in history: tyrannical government, leaders enamored with

themselves, censorship by census, everyone registered, traveling great distances to pay unreasonable taxes, the people were tired of it all! The people were looking for a Messiah, a Savior. They were expecting something good to happen. Now, get your Bible and read Luke 2:1-10.

Wow! Read verse 14 again: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men! Just when it seemed like they couldn't take anymore - everything that the Prophet Isaiah had said in chapter 9 verses 1 -7 (don't read anymore until you read those verses out of your own Bible.) Did you do it? O.K. read it again! YET! IT HAPPENED!! ON CHRISTMAS!!

People were walking in darkness - yes, just before Christmas, they were living in depressed times and ruled by an oppressive government. Now compare Isaiah 9:6 with Luke 2:10-14!

JESUS CAME! HOPE CAME! TRUTH AND LIGHT AND LIFE CAME! CHRISTMAS IS FOR BELIEVING PEOPLE - EXPECTING PEOPLE - PEOPLE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING GOOD TO HAPPEN - PEOPLE WHO STILL BELIEVE IN GOD!
(See Pastor - Next Page)



(Pastor Continued.)

At this wonderful time of the year, listen to the music, look at the decorations, smell the wonderful aroma of candies and baked goods, look at the faces of children, listen to the humming of Grandma's & Grandpa's, THEY ARE ALL EXPECTING SOMETHING GOOD TO HAPPEN! ARE WE? Perhaps the best Christmas Scripture for 2009, for Believing, Expecting, Faithful Christians, is found in 1st Corinthians 15:50 - 56. Did you read it? Did you get it? Now read 1st Corinthians 15:57-58 (NIV) **But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,** because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. It's Christmas! I'm Believing, I'm Expecting, and I'm Looking for something good, I'M LOOKING FOR JESUS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
PASTOR JIM & DOLLY



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Submitted By: Coach Bird

Our speaker for December will be Pastor Jeff Little. He will bring us Christmas music and share some things concerning his background. Bob Crane will be the Chef. It promises to be a great Breakfast!

Date: Saturday, Dec. 19th

Time: 8:00 AM

Place: Fellowship Hall

Who: All Men and Boys

Come and bring a friend.

PRIME – TIMERS DECEMBER POTLUCK

**PLEASE COME AND
JOIN US**

DATE: Fri, Dec. 18

AGES: 50 and beyond

PLACE: Fellowship Hall

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

**BRING: one of the
following: Main dish, Salad
or Dessert**

We are going to have a regular Potluck this year. We can't support our child and pay for the food at the sometime.

This is the time that we have our **White Elephant Gift Exchange.** You

bring your unwanted funny presents from Christmas past, but not your unwanted junk (one for each person coming).

See you there, Phyllis



HELPING HANDS MINISTRIES

20 families (85 people) enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner because of your generosity and the hard work of the people who prepared the food baskets. Thank you, Church!

Now Christmas is coming and our cupboards (freezers and bank account) are bare. **We need to buy 20 turkeys and perishables. So CASH is in demand as well as the dry goods and canned items that you donated for Thanksgiving.** May God bless you as we give to others.



JUST A NOTE

**SUBMITTED BY: JEFF LITTLE
WORSHIP AND ARTS PASTOR**

There is something about music that touches everybody. Music goes far beyond audible. The physicality of the sonic waves pushing air around to make room for itself, the rhythm that cuts through the ambient noise and makes our feet tap, the penetration of our defenses to the innermost regions of our souls and emotions, Every aspect of music has been given to us as a tool to use to worship God, who gives all good gifts to His children. Many times I think we enter the sanctuary and settle into the routine of announcements, song, scripture, sermon, prayer with our brains on autopilot, missing the wonderful gift we've been given.

I love what my friend, Bryan Ewing, wrote in his song **You Turn**, "You turn my song into a hymn." What if, this Sunday, we come onto church, ready to worship and not just sing? Can God really turn secular to sacred? Could it make a difference in your life? Maybe seeing you truly will inspire your children to keep the faith on the difficult journey of life and development. Perhaps your obedient response of worship to God's blessings will be a catalyst for Him to utilize you in your world for His Son's sake.

I encourage you, this month, to diligently make worship a priority, and go beyond mere presence to magnifying participation in praise and worship of every season's biggest Giver, and His Son, The world's greatest Gift.

AN ANGEL CHOIR THANK YOU

**SUBMITTED BY: CELESTA
BROOKS**

My heartfelt thanks to all of my committee members: Jan and Gary Burke, Michelle Smith, Cathy Banks Tara Cross, Barbara Porter and Helen Hareland for repairing the gowns and making 25 new angel wings. May God bless each of you.



Christmas Eve message and partake of the Lord's Supper. Bring the family and guests to this most blessed service.

CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

- 6 9:00 AM Worship Service – Angel Choir
6:00 PM Evening Praise Service
- 13 9:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Children's Musical – "The Next Noel"
- 18 6:00 PM All Church Christmas Caroling
- 20 9:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Missionary Service
- 24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion Service
- 27 9:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Evening Praise Service

SUNDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

- 4:00 PM The Group Practice
- 4:30 PM Puppet Ministry

TUESDAY WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- 4:00 PM Chimes/Sticks Practice
- 5:45 PM Quiz Practice

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM WOW
- 11:00 AM – NOON Chapel Adult Bible Study
- 6:15 PM Jr/Sr High Youth Group
- 6:15 PM Caravan
- 4:30 PM Inspiration Practic
- 6:15 PM Worship Team Practice

FRIDAY WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- 7:00 PM College Career (Young Adults) at Casa Java

**NMI
NAZARENE MISSIONS
INTERNATIONAL**

Submitted by: Sandy Ernest
DECEMBER is Compassionate Ministries Month and our emphasis will be to help send a love offering (along with all Nazarene churches in the U.S.) to go towards the rebuilding of their Hydroelectric dam which was destroyed in a unprecedented flood. The entire electrical infrastructure needs to be rebuilt.

As many of you know we had a team who went to Papua New Guinea last July on a Work & Witness project. Also, Dr. Mike Bachman and Marylynne went and helped with dental work. They experienced several power outages while there and saw the seriousness of it.



SPECIALS TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER



All church Christmas Caroling on Wed., the 16th. Meet at the church at 6:00 PM. Lend your voice to bring Christmas cheer to those who are unable to come to the church. Refreshments will be served.

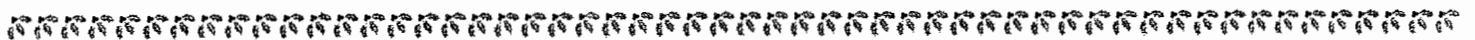


Special Vesper Communion Candlelight Service, 6:30 PM Christmas Eve. Come and sing carols, hear beautiful special music, the Pastor's



Last August our Headquarters in Kansas City approved this as an official Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) giving project. Nov. 22nd Brad Hodgins, in the Sunday morning service, shared pictures and details about this project. Brad also was on the team to PNG so he knew what was experienced in the outages. We will be accepting monies all through the month of December. Just place your offering in an envelope behind the pew and mark it PNG-Electric. We will also take an offering on Dec. 20th in the am service. Please be in prayer for these very urgent needs at our hospital and other areas that are affected in PNG.

Merry Christmas to each one of you from the NMI Council





Caroling



WED. THE 16TH
6:00 PM

**REMEMBER
IN
DECEMBER**



CHRISTMAS EVE
6:30 PM

DECEMBER

- 6TH 9:00 AM ----- ANGEL CHOIR
- 12TH ----- ELK'S CHRISTMAS PARADE
- 13TH 6:00 PM ----- CHILDREN'S MUSICAL
- 16TH 6:00 PM ----- ALL CHURCH CAROLING
- 18TH 19TH ----- LIVE NATIVITY at the CHURCH
- 21ST 1:00 PM ----- CHRISTMAS BASKET DISTRIBUTION
- 24TH 6:30 PM ----- VESPER COMMUNION SERVICE

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