

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Luke 2:11-12 NIV

News

December 2009



A monthly publication of happenings at Discovery Church

A Personal Adventure Highlight

These past few weeks have certainly been an exciting adventure as we committed 50 days to prepare for the future. As with all adventures, this spiritual adventure has ended. My prayer as we move ahead—and as I have shared with those of you receiving the daily e-mail updates—is that you have experienced the stirrings of revival in your life that will continue to grow as we begin to anticipate where God wishes to lead us and use us in 2010.

As we started the adventure, one of the points I tried to make is that adventures can often be scary. During the 50 days of our spiritual adventure I started a health adventure that became more frightening with each contact from the doctor. Shortly before my annual physical I began experiencing excruciating abdominal pain. For the first time in my life I understood why people are asked to evaluate how severe the pain is on the scale of 1-10. I could honestly say it was at least a 10+. In fact, on the day people were baptized in November, I wasn't sure I would be able to get them back up out of the water. It's a good thing they didn't know! They can all thank God for some powerfully effective pain "dullers" that provided just enough relief.

The physical was done. The doctor ordered some tests and more lab work. Then a call came that I was being referred to see an oncologist at the Coburn's Cancer Center. When I asked why this was being done, I was told, "We need to see what they think." Then, I waited for several days—that seemed like an eternity—to finally see the doctor all the time wondering...

I wondered about the timing of all this as we explored what could lie ahead for us as believers against whom our spiritual enemy will make war. It's strangely unsettling talking about the future as you wonder just how long that future might be. It did add meaning to the adventure and heightened my sense of vulnerability.

Thankfully, on the day when Judi and I walked through the doors of the cancer center wondering just how radically life might change, we also walked back out those doors rejoicing because the doctor said there was absolutely no reason for concern. I do have several benign hepatic cysts on my liver that in rare cases can cause extreme pain. I just happen to be one of those rare cases. The recommended treatment is to treat the pain until it subsides. So, if I sometimes seem to be loopy, now I have an excuse!

There were two thoughts that sustained me during this special, additional, personal speed bump. The first revolved around the supremacy of God who blesses us with joys beyond description and sustains us through times of crippling sorrow. I thought often on the words of Job,

“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job 1:21-22 NIV

I committed as best I could to praise God—no matter what the news.

The second thought was expressed by Paul when he proclaimed,

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:20-21 NIV

My mind traveled back several years to a message by Richard Strauss, pastor of Emmanuel Faith Community Church in Escondido, California. Having been told that he had terminal cancer, he told his congregation that when he accepted the call to the church he did so for the purpose of showing them how to live for Jesus. Now, his assignment had been changed to show them how to die for Jesus. In my own prayers I told the Lord that if He had decided to change my assignment, I would do my best to honor Him by surrendering my will to His.

I carry an extra lesson from my spiritual adventure. My continuing prayer as we move into what lies ahead is that I can do my best to honor Him by fulfilling His assignment to show you how to live for Jesus—for as long as He chooses.

Pastor Art Cotant

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th

7:00 PM



A Baby Changes Everything
By Providing Purpose

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

2- Anna Vrchota
4- Karla Hultgren
6 -Betty Widmeier
6 - Isabella Mustain
7 - Sophia Henkel
8 - Shadrack Feahn
10 - Jonathan Rangoonwala
11 - Nicky Minter
13 - Kara Kicker
14 - Alison Binsfeld
14 - Tally Moehle
15 - Mark Moehle
15 - Larry Swift
16 - John Petersen
17 - Ryan Casey
18 - Max Schroden
18 - Sloane Halverson
20 - Blake Redfield

December Anniversaries

6-Terry & Lora Kleinjan
17-Randy&Deanna Schroden
19 - Al & Darlene Picconatto
27 - Dan & Sue Merchant
23 - Lora Kleinjan
23 - Benjamin Foos
24 - Martha Schmitz
27 - Caitlyn Pecholt
30 - Cody Brenhaug
30 - Dino Neis
30 - Darria Scouton



FAMILY NEWS

Women's **Christmas Brunch**

December 5th

9:30 am

Radisson Hotel



Attention All Adults of Discovery Church!

Mark your calendar and get your child care lined up!

**Adult Christmas party:
Saturday, December 19th, 7:00 p.m.
at the Froemming's.
More details will follow.**



CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

Hello, Discovery Families,

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, we will all be in the race to finish all the Christmas activities and responsibilities, won't we? I pray that your number one goal for December, however, is to finish 2009 well...strong for the Lord, and growing daily in your relationship with Him.

I have some new materials available for you to use as a resource on parenting and family life. On the information board in the foyer, you may not have yet noticed a growing 'library' of Parenting Tips. Check them out! Take as many with you as you want. Keep checking out the board, as a new one should be added each week, and you may need different tips from time to time as you journey through the parenting maze.

Is one of your goals for 2010 to have more intentional, quality family time? I recommend a set Family Night...written on the calendar, and only changed for VERY important reasons, and only with the agreement of the whole family, with another night scheduled in to replace the missed one. If you are not already doing this, you will be amazed at how much your children look forward to this time together with you. If you are lacking ideas as to what to do on these nights, come and see me, as I have added four Family Time Activities books to my shelf under "Parenting Resources". You are welcome to check them out and gather some new ideas and renewed enthusiasm for Family Night!

Upcoming dates to note:

- December 12th - Christmas Play practice: 9:00AM - noon. (Parent Volunteers needed for crowd control and costume changes!) This is for children from ages 2- grade 6. More information will follow, but please mark your calendars.
- December 16th - Christmas Play performed for Awana. Parent volunteers needed!
- December 20th - Christmas Play performed during Discovery Hour, followed by a time of fellowship. Volunteers for the kitchen, as well as the help with the play are needed!

May this Christmas Season bring you renewed devotion to our Lord and Savior as you celebrate with family and friends.

Joyfully, *Darlene*

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Greetings Discovery Church family!

Just got back from Sr. High fall camp! As usual the folks at Castaway did an incredible job. Everything from the programming to the food was top notch. Clearly their commitment

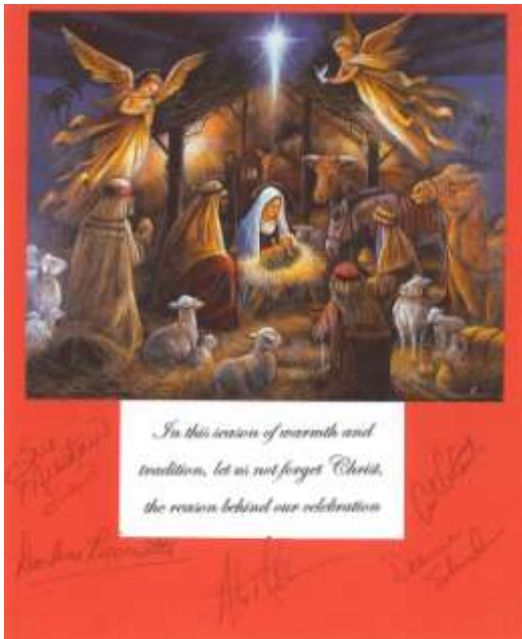


to excellence in youth ministry paid off, as God moved in powerful ways in the lives of many students. It was an honor to be a part of it.

Jr. High Winter Camp is going to be coming up on January 22-24th at Camp Lebanon. Sign up for Jr. High camp is December 4th. The cost is \$99. I will be mailing out info as soon as I get it from their camp director.



Honored to serve,
Alex



Discovery Church

Pursuing Jesus...Practicing Love

Our Purpose: We exist to honor God by developing committed followers of Jesus Christ who attract others to Him.