



December Newsletter

Calvary Chapel Fernley

"A Family of Believers, Growing Together"

(775) 575-2834 CCFNewsletter@hotmail.com Volume No. 2006 Issue No. 12 December 3, 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/04 Board Meeting
- 12/09 Ladies Koininia
- 12/09 Piano Recital [Faith Baptist Church in Silver Springs]
- 12/09 Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal
- 12/10 Christmas Play
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

EXTENDED FORECAST

- 01/16 C³AP²
- 3/7-27 Russia Trip
- 3/9-10 Battle Cry

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Sundays

- 9:45 AM Morning Service
- 9:45 AM Sunday School (k-6th)
- 5:00 PM Home Bible Studies

Monday (alternating)

- 7:00 PM 1st – Home Bible Study Leadership Meeting
- 7:00 PM 2nd – Awana Leaders' Meeting
- 7:00 PM 3rd – Men's Prayer
- 7:00 PM 4th – Board Meeting (moved to 12/4)
- 7:00 PM 5th – Missions Committee

Tuesdays

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study
- 9:00 AM Project Linus meets on the last Tues. of the Month at 100 Country Ranch Road
- 7:00 PM Systematic Theology Bible Study / Youth Group

Wednesdays

- 1:00 PM Sr. Bible Study
- 7:00 PM AWANA

Thursday

- 6:30 PM Worship Team Practice
- 7:30 PM AA meets in the MPR

PJ's Corner – A Contented Christmas:

On Tuesday, 04 February 1969, my mother had just finished painting our dining room. She was quite fashionable in her multi-colored (And yes, orange was included. I come by my love of orange honestly.) speckled painting pants and one of my father's old equally colorfully speckled sweatshirts. My father had recently returned from tending the traps in the meadows near our home, he was only wearing some of those old quilted insulated underwear bottoms and a sweatshirt. Dad was enjoying our 'new' (to us) color TV. He had put up the 'color' TV antennae only three days before.

My mother glanced into the dining room and saw smoke. A little background: we owned a marina and the first floor was a restaurant and storage and we lived upstairs. At the bottom of the stairs was a foyer, left into the kitchen of the restaurant, right into storage, straight ahead the door the family used to enter the house without passing through the business. When Mom and Dad reached the bottom of the stairs to the left and right were rolling flames. Dad said it looked like the furnaces at the factory. The fire investigator said it was a fire in search of oxygen and had my father had only turned the knob on the door in front of him the air would have rushed in to feed the 'air-starved fire', knocking them backward, and there would have been a flash-over and both would have been instantly incinerated. To this day Dad says he tried to reach for the door knob but he couldn't. Do you believe in angels? We do.

They went back upstairs and by then, flames were coming through the floor. The only room they could enter with a window was my sisters' bedroom. They went in and closed the door. That closed door again saved their lives. Dad looked out the window and well out of reach was the extension ladder he used while installing the 'color' TV antenna. He left it up so he could 'Give it a twist, later' to make the reception better.

He lowered my Mom out of the window and swung her like a trapeze, over to the

ladder; she hooked it with her foot and then pulled it over to Dad. Dad held it at the angle as she climbed down. She moved the bottom over and Dad climbed down. Only a moment later many windows shattered inward and flames began coming out of the house all over; we were told the vacuum created by the fire imploded the windows. The air hit the fire and it exploded, nothing or no one inside of the house would have survived. The fire burned so hot it accordioned the cast iron radiators and two of our partially buried fuel tanks fifteen feet from the house ruptured.

When it was all done our home, everything we owned, our business supplies, records and inventory and all of the equipment off of our charter fishing boat were completely destroyed. All we had was what was on our backs. Even the 'box' with all of the important papers and memories Dad drilled us to make certain we took it with us in case of fire was lost.

But praise the Lord; the community came to our aid. We had clothes and furniture donated in abundance totally filling my Uncle's basement. When we moved into our house we had enough furniture to fill it twice. Even our house was a gift of God. A friend of my Dad's had a rental house the tenets had suddenly 'vacated' so she let us have it at no charge until the end of fishing season. Sadly, the insurance was only enough to cover getting new equipment for the charter fishing boat. So, we had to sell what remained of the marina. But, we children had our parents and we had each other and that is what mattered.

Eventually the next fishing season came and went, but because of the financial set backs, like paying for the house, it was going to be a lean Christmas. Most of what we received were necessities and we received them when they were needed; for example: my brothers, sister and I all received shotguns for 'Christmas', but in time for pheasant, duck and deer seasons. But we were going to do Christmas anyway, even if it was an apple and orange Christmas like Mom and Dad had during the Depression. Our Christmas plans were going well until the day before Christmas Eve. Our family

"Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11 (NKJV)

tradition was that we hunted for our Christmas tree while hunting deer, and we found one, and we would go out into the forest and chop the tree down a few days before Christmas. We didn't put it up in the house until the morning of Christmas Eve and we did not decorate it until Christmas Eve. It was while we were bringing the tree home we realized all of the ornaments and lights were lost in the fire. If there was no money for gifts, there certainly was no money for ornaments. So we got creative and strung popcorn, cranberries, made 'Christmas Chains' out of paper and homemade ornaments. But the best idea came from our seven year old sister. She said, "I want to put what I'm the most thankful for on the tree." She then went to a box of photographs, took out a photograph of Mom and Dad out and hung it like an ornament from the tree. She started a ball rolling until the tree was covered with the photographs from the box. I wouldn't say it the prettiest tree we ever had, but for us it was the most meaningful.

That Christmas we had the greatest gift of all, each other. When we all get together today we still praise the Lord because we can only image how close we were that February day to not having parents that Christmas. Christmas 1969 for us eight Gales was the most special ever.

Then the next year my mother took ornaments and put our names on them, 'Dad' and 'Mom' on gold balls, then 'Eleanor', 'Gladys', 'John', 'Joe', 'Danny' and 'Mona' on red. It was to remind us of the year our photos were our ornaments.

This Christmas there will be a ceremony Christmas Eve, when all of the family that can gathers together, that has been occurring annually since 1970; however, this year forty-two Christmas balls in three colors will be placed on the tree. Until last year a very special homemade ornament in the shape of the hand of the seven year old girl with cotton balls stuck to it was placed on the tree; it is the last of the homemade ornaments from 1969. This year it will be that 'seven year old's' tree in her home; she is a little older than seven now. But there are so many balls now the 'name balls' are the only ornaments on the tree. It is a blessing to my Mom and Dad every year Christmas morning to sip coffee and look at all the names.

But on Christmas Eve before everyone, and I mean everyone, even my 78 year old father sits on Santa's lap to receive a gift, they put their ornament and the ornament for

someone not there on the tree. 'Santa' is now always one of the brothers, and a pinch and a kiss is a part of the tradition. But one after another: Dad then Mom will place those worn original ornaments on an empty tree; followed by Eleanor, Gladys, John Jr., Joe (I have only placed my ball on the tree three times in the last 32 years.), Danny, Mona's original 1970 ornaments. Today, those 2 gold and 6 red are joined by 5 red balls for spouses: Ann, Vicki, Ron, Patti, and Paul. That group is then joined by 13 blue balls for our children: Ed Jr., Diana, John-Paul, Joe Jr., Bethany, Ron Jr., Cheryl, Dan Jr., Krista, Melissa, Andrea, Samantha, Michaela, that group has been expanded by 6 blue balls for their spouses: 'Boomer', Jennifer, Philip, Jennifer, Amanda, and Kim.

Then in the same color as their great-grandparents are 8 gold balls for: Autumn, Sean, Ben, Ian, Caleb, Matthew, Emma and Evan. This year 2 new gold balls my mother was finishing today for Lily Gale and Evelyn Schultz.

The family nearly torn apart by death (the five who still lived at home would have been 'distributed' to four different relatives), who during that first Christmas in 1969 celebrated life and love because that is all they had; has commemorated that special Christmas of life and love every year since.

This Christmas give and receive gifts as is your tradition, but take time to hold on a little extra longer to those you love. Even on this special day look and thank the Lord for all of your needs and praise Him for all you have above those needs.

Please don't dwell on this image. It does sound terribly a lot like the Clampetts. But we found what contentment really was one Christmas with a tree full of, 'tacky' but cherished, hastily homemade ornaments, strung popcorn and cranberries, and photographs. There were only four used shotguns, some clothes, a few toys for the youngest brother and sister, a replacement hope-chest for my sister, and hip boots for my brother and I (trapping season started 01 January).

My eyes flood with tears even today as I remember it. My mother's eyes filled with tears when I called and confirmed a few facts.

That Christmas we learned love, contentment and joy that never could have been found with stuff from the world. And that lesson is as fresh in my heart today, thirty-seven years later, as it was that day. So this Christmas, remember the many gifts

He has given us, and foremost on our hearts should be Jesus. Remember and celebrate His love this Christmas.

PJ

Church Leadership

Church office hours Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-2:30

Pastor: Joe Gale

Assoc. Pastor: Jeremiah Loubet

Elders: Ted Saxe, Tom McKay, Leland McIlvain

Deacons: Dave Tustin, Andy Breen, Bill Criss, Dave Dunham, Robert Herron, Flint Smith, Bob Wilson

Admin. Assistant: Shawna Miller

Awana Commander: Andy Breen

Bible Study Leaders: Vicki Gale, Robert Herron, Lois McKay, Ron McKay, Ted Saxe, Bob Wilson

Dir. of Christian Ed.: Jerald Miller

Financial Secretary: Linda McIlvain

Food Closet: Christina Herron

Hospitality&Food Serv: Fran McKay

In-reach Outreach: Anne Tillman

Married Ministry Fel.: Bill Criss, Dale & Della Dunham

Rotating Fellowship: Charlene McFarlane

Secret Sisters: Becky Sturgeon

Welcome Ministry: Robert Herron

Worship Team Leader: Bob Wilson

THE TITLE OF THIS UPCOMING HOLIDAY IS "CHRISTMAS"

Happy Holidays just doesn't cut it, does it? This year make certain the cards you send and give say "Merry Christmas" and not Season's Greetings or Happy Holidays. And if you are efficient and have already purchased them, **handwrite 'Merry Christmas' above your name.**

December Birthdays

12-01 Justin Turner
12-15 Jennifer Windle
12-19 Toby Herzinger
12-19 Troy Smith
12-20 Steve Tustin
12-25 Cory McCain
12-25 Lani Kirshman
12-27 David Tustin
12-31 Callie Loubet

December Anniversaries

12-13 Jeremiah & Callie Loubet

- 12-16 Flint & Tina Smith
 12-19 Gordon & Betty LittleJohn
 12-21 Chuck & Alice McKinney
 12-31 Guy & Tina Clark
 IS IT WORTH YOUR TIME?

Recently, I asked if doing a Billboard on I-80 between Fernley and Reno that says something like, "Worship your Lord in your hometown. The ministry you are traveling for could be your ministry to your hometown." and many thought it sounded good. One billboard currently empty near Wadsworth costs \$400.00 a month for a 12 year contract. I have not had time to pursue it past that yet. There are probably set up charges, etc., so how good does it sound?

Also I have discussed with many of you the need for a good Bible Teaching Radio Station here on the Western Great Basin, like CSN in Reno, Carson, Winnemucca, and Gardnerville. There are several available on line, but my computer in my truck regulates the traction and gas. It doesn't receive radio stations. I have started to make contact with Lois Mills at CSN to find out the cost. Is this something someone would like to follow up on?

The playground committee has found some really good replacement 'swing-sets' but this is not a budgeted replacement. The cost is near \$1,000.00 and a lot of time to tear down 'old faithful' and build its replacement. The Board decided that we are not going to 'Wait until Spring' we are just going to go for it.

We have several very important ministries which need coordinators and help: the Visitor Follow up Ministry, the Greeters Ministry, the Nursery for Tuesday and Sunday Mornings, the AV Ministry and more; maybe this is your place to serve and share?

REVELATION TIME IS HERE!!

Yes, Sonshine Secret Sisters, it is that time of year again. December is the final month to remember your Secret Sister and as you do, it's time to reveal the REAL you! It's been a wonderful year and it has been great being your Secret Sister Coordinator.

May each of you have a blessed Christmas Season and my personal prayers go with each and every one of you into 2007.

Becky Sturgeon

The Prayer Closet

In Genesis Chapter 1, Elohim did an amazing thing when He said, "Let us make man in Our image after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over the all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth on the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them"...**Gen 1:26-27.**

Now one of the images I see of God in the word is...The Image of a Conqueror, The Image of a Warrior...In Hebrew tradition, Elohim was also the Conquering Messiah, the King that they watched for diligently...

The prophet Isaiah saw it and accounted it as, "And He saw there was no man and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore His arm brought salvation unto him; and His righteousness, it sustained him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon His head; and He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak..." **Isa 59:16-17.**

The Apostle John's vision of the Great and Mighty Conqueror in Revelation is equally as powerful..."And I saw heaven opened up, and behold a white horse, and He that sat upon was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns, and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean..."**Rev 19: 11-14.**

How does that go? "In the image of God created He him..." I think the Apostle Paul got it; he calls us to "Awake out of our sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than

we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in drunkenness, not in clambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. [And here's my favorite part...] But, put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof!" **Rom 13: 11-14**

Paul follows this up in several places, but Ephesians is the best correlation to all of these passages... Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day...**Eph 6: 11, 13.** Paul then quotes Isa. 59 and adds in a sprinkling of the Gospel.

So what does all of this or any of this have to do with prayer? ...Ah, Glad you asked! In **verse 18** he ties a bow on it and gives us a precious gift, wisdom from the Pharisee of Pharisees, a Hebrew of Hebrews...the one who studied at the feet of Gamaliel, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints..."**Eph 6:18.**

Are ya starting to get a grip on this? ...We are created in the image of God. One of those facets of the Lord is the person of a "WARRIOR". "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"...**Eph 6:12.**

Men and Brethren, Sisters...we are called to be Warriors. Christ Himself commands us to: "Watch therefore and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit is truly ready, but the flesh is weak"...**Mk 14:38.** We are commanded by Paul to Put on the Whole Armor of God...Why do warriors wear armor, To protect our flesh...we need to Gird ourselves with the Truth, Cover our Heart with the Breastplate of Righteousness, Get your Gospel Sneaker on, Grab your Shield of Faith, Cover your brains with the Helmet of Salvation and get out your Sword and immerse yourself in His Word!!! Put on the Lord Jesus Christ!!! Having done all to stand...Get in your prayer posture and with all prayer and supplication...with all

perseverance, Pray for all the Saints.
...Lets' Go to War. Oh, and by the way, I
read the end of the book...and We WIN!!!

Have you said your prayers today...I
hope you will...Blessings and Honor, Glory
and Power, Be unto the Ancient of
Days...Amen.

Commanders Corner

As we approach this
Christmas Season I have
a special prayer
request. Please pray
that after two weeks
off we do not loose our
clubbers. Many times we
see a drop off in
attendance after this
break. Also pray that
this time off will be
encouraging and
refreshing to those
that serve as leaders,
helpers and staff.

Awana Games and
Bible Quizzing are not
too far off. February
10th will be an awesome
day of events where our
clubbers will compete
with the clubbers from
the other clubs in
northern Nevada and
California. We hope to
be able to put together
teams for both the T&T
and Sparks Games along
with multiple teams for
the T&T Bible quizzing.
I encourage you to
start praying for this
event as it is not only
a great day for the
kids but the Gospel
will be presented to
all the families that
come out to watch.
Speaking of watching,
if you have never seen
60 1st graders crawl

across a forty foot
game square like
fighting ants you are
missing out one of the
greatest moments in
life. With that in mind
please consider coming
out and rooting for our
kids.

As this year comes
to an end I would like
to thank you all for
your support and
prayers.

Serving Him by serving
others,

Andy Breen

PS;

If you only make it to
one club night to see
what happens on Wed.
nights I would
recommend December 20th,
Silent Night.

Bible Study Updates

Systematic Theology Class Schedule

Doctrines of Christ and the Holy Spirit
Dec. 5th - Ch 28, Resurrection & Ascension
Dec. 12th - Ch 29, The Offices of Christ
Dec. 19th - Ch 30, The Work of the Holy Spirit
Dec. 26th - No Meeting

Married Group Fellowship: All Married Couples Welcome!

Interested in learning more
about God's design for your
Marriage? Then please join us as
we go through the "God's Design
For Marriage" CD Series &
Workbook. In the month of
December, we will be meeting at
the Criss' home on Monday,
December 11th, and Monday the
18th. For More information and/or
directions, please contact Bill Criss
at 336-7992.

The Home Front

Our home Bible studies are
operating on their own schedules and
will not necessarily all meet on the
same nights through December.
Please watch the bulletins for details.

Correspondence & Updates

Do you have questions or
comments on the newsletter, or
perhaps something you would
like to see added? Are you in
charge of a ministry or an event
you would like promoted?
Please e-mail or talk to Pastor
Jeremiah. The e-mail address
for newsletter items is
ccfnewsletter@hotmail.com
Please put "newsletter" as the
subject. Remember that the
deadline for submissions is the
last Wednesday of the month.
THANK YOU – ALL WHO GOT
YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO ME
EARLY THIS MONTH!

Battle Cry?

It's December again, and next
year's Battle Cry Stadium event is
just a few months away, on March
9th – 10th. Are you interested? In
the next weeks and months there
will be updates in the bulletins,
clipboards and newsletters, so keep
an eye on them, and sign up if you're
interested.

What's different? For the sake
of cutting cost, this year's trip will be
a day shorter, traveling to San
Francisco on the morning of March
9th, and returning late on the tenth.
This should allow us to cut the price
by somewhere around thirty dollars
each from last year's cost, but it will
require drivers willing to travel in the
dark. Are you willing? Please talk to
Pastor Jeremiah. Our deposit will
also be a little bit bigger, matching
the cost of the individual tickets.

Wondering what Battle Cry Is?
This is an event that seeks to draw in
teens from all over the Western

United States, both saved and unsaved alike. There, they will be exposed to the Gospel message, and a series of speakers whose focus is to give a crash course on the dangers lurking in our culture and what we can do about them individually and corporately. Meanwhile they will be exposed to numerous Christian musicians of all kinds. One of the expressed reasons for the sheer size of the event – 35,000 kids – is to let our teens know that they are not alone, and that there are Christians all around them in their schools and communities. The messages were mostly clear, sometimes almost brutally blunt, and definitely left an impression.

Is Battle Cry worth it? Just ask our kids who went last year, many of whom almost left their chairs in excitement when I mentioned it. Or ask the adults who went. Andy, our Awana Commander, will give you an earful. Even with one tenth of Fernley's yearly precipitation dumped over our heads, the message was not lost in the discomfort.