



MVCF VILLAGER

December 2010

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MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ 8:30 a.m. Sunday | Adult Sunday School |
| ◆ 9:30 a.m. Sunday | Worship Service |
| ◆ 10:00 a.m. Sunday | Children's Bible Adventures |



A SERVANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Church Family,

I've been thinking about the Christmas Story. It really isn't complicated at all. Read the verses below.

Luke 2:8-11 (NIV) "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. "

Now, to show you how simple it is, read the three phrases I have plucked from these verses.

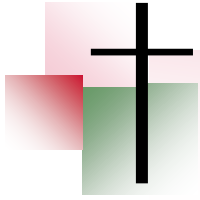
- *Good News*
- *Great Joy*
- *A Savior Has Been Born to You*



Merry Christmas!

Carl

Pastor Carl



BROKEN OFFERINGS

Lately I have been realizing just how desperately dependant I am on the love of God. I am so utterly dependant in fact that I have come to the conclusion that I have nothing to offer God except this desperate dependence. *Oh, how imperfect and broken I am and how desperately, desperately dependant I am on the love and grace of God!*

I think it is so easy to know that we are broken and that we all have struggles, but to actually face those struggles in light of God's love for us and get to know them instead of keeping them in hiding, is something completely different altogether. Facing the fact that we are imperfect and flawed is the last thing we want to do. It is such an ego crusher for us because we want to be perfect. We want to be the most loving husbands or wives who never fail to love their spouses; we want to be the perfect parents; we want to be the perfect employees. And while some of these desires may be admirable they often get in the way of our recognizing our total and utter failure to be ANY of these things perfectly (I have only been married three months and I already know how far short of perfection I fall as a husband. I cannot even begin to tell you what it means to be a parent). When we face ourselves we see the nasty imperfections that we have tried to keep hidden from ourselves all our years. And when we see those, we see the people that we have come to despise in our life time; we see the little boy who could never get the highest grades on his math exam or the little girl who could never please her parents. Imperfection is the very reason we feel unlovable, and it's our chief excuse to reject God's love for us.

For some reason the reality of my imperfection has flown right into my face on numerous occasions this past month and it has been impossible to shake. I have come face to face with my failings as a husband and my failings to love people and serve them perfectly. No matter how hard I have tried to avoid it, I have come to the pride-busting, gut-wrenching truth that no matter how utterly hard I try I will always fail at being perfect in this life. I will always fail at meeting God's standard of perfection and I will fail perhaps even more at my own standards of perfection.

When we have the courage to come to the realization of our total inability to be perfect, and are ready to let God love us in spite of these imperfections, then we are ready for a new stage in our walks with Jesus; a stage which brings us to a place of total dependence on a Love which is not our own, and a salvation that is nothing short of a gift in Jesus name. This is where I am right now. This is the new chapter of my journey with Abba.

I have heard about the love of God almost my whole life. First from my dad, then from church, then from a variety of different authors I have read, but I am seeing just how impossible it is to even begin to grasp God's love until we come to grips with the ugly parts of ourselves, allowing Jesus to love us with them. Until this happens the love of God is mere intellectual goo with no form of importance or substance whatsoever.

Resting in God's love means not defaulting to self-criticism in the midst of failure, but to acceptance of a love that "keeps no record of wrongs" (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-7). It means not grabbing hold of our failures and keeping them close, but acknowledging them before God in trust that He won't turn His back on us. It means letting God love us perfectly, driving out all our fear of condemnation (see 1 John 4:8).

Romans 5:8 says that God "proved His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." That is the essence of the love of God. It is a love that reaches out to the prideful and the self-centered, for those trapped in sin and barely making it through life. It's a love for those who know that they have nothing to offer God except a life of total and utter dependence on this love for salvation and for daily peace.

God has made it nearly impossible for me to avoid my broken parts these past few weeks and I wonder if it is the beginning of an answer to my prayer to know His love more. For what better way to know His love than to see Him accept and have compassion on me during my daily, moment by moment existence.

When we realize that all we have to give God is imperfection and that this is okay with him because of Jesus' saving work on Calvary, then I think we are really on to something.

Andy Nelson, Youth Pastor

Fellowship Ministry News

Hello Church: May you be blessed richly in the name of the almighty God.

There is one important change about Celebration Sunday that we would like to bring to your attention. In order for us all to share in the blessing of providing meals, everyone has been assigned to a Home Fellowship Group! Praise God!

Secondly, Celebration Sunday has now been scheduled to take place every quarter instead of every month. The home fellowship leader or someone else will give you a call to let you know when it's your turn. In addition, we will post a list in the fellowship hall to that end. Please be on the lookout for it.

A few other reminders:

Sweet Sunday falls on December 19th 2010 - Please bring baked goodies to share!

Epiphany (feast) has been scheduled for January 2th 2011.

Regarding Sunday Munchies: If you have anything to contribute to the weekly snacks please do. We will all greatly appreciate it!

May the Lord bless you.

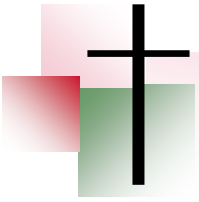
Yours in Him,

Sabina Adjibolosoo



“Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.”

—W.T. Purkiser



JUST FOR FUN

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 06—Daniel Kingsbury
- 10—Steve Brunson
- 13—Elaine Morgan
- 14—Jim Ryer
- 17—Chuck Ellerbee
- 21—Roger McCollough
- 21—Ronda Adams
- 23—Brenda Casey
- 24—Christina Jacobs
- 24—Kaden Baker
- 25—Ed Clark
- 27—Betty Thomas
- 30—Heuldana Agiro
- 31—Richard Herron

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 02—Mike & Janetta Stephen
- 09—Mike & Terri Loren
- 26—Tom & Inez Richley
- 27—Doug & Margi Eno

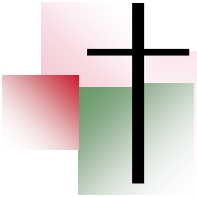


Luke's gospel tells about Joseph and Mary taking the baby Jesus to the temple "to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22, NRSV). An old man approached and said the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die before he saw the Messiah. Seeing Jesus and being moved by the Holy Spirit, this man proclaimed that the baby was indeed the Messiah.

What was the man's name?

- A. Simeon
- B. Simon
- C. Phanuel
- D. Zechariah

Answer: A (See Luke 2:25.)



JUST FOR KIDS

NATIVITY SCENE POTS

Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

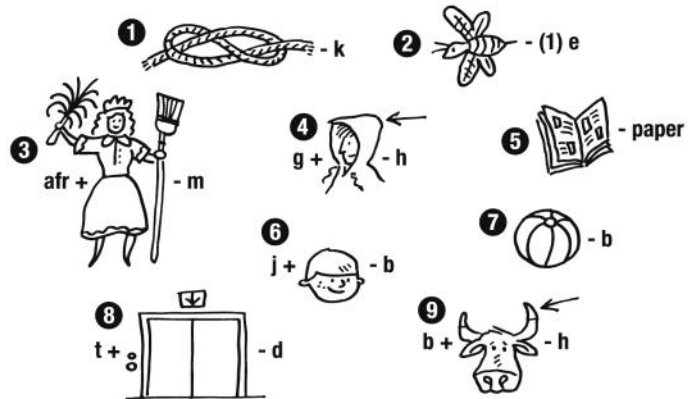
1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do _____ I bring you _____
 _____ of great _____ that will be for _____ the people.

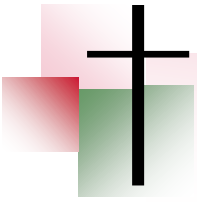
Today in the _____ of David a Savior has been _____
 to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV




Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born



December



DECEMBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	2 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	3 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 6 p.m. Bunco 7 p.m. Armstead HF	4
5 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Convalescent Visit 	6 2 p.m. June Angus HF	7 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	8 10 a.m. Pastor's Coffee Club 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	9 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	10 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Armstead HF	11 8 a.m. God's Extended Hand
12 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 7 p.m. Gifts to the King 	13 2 p.m. June Angus HF	14 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	15 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	16 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	17 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Armstead HF	18
19 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Sweet Sunday 	20 2 p.m. June Angus HF	21 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	22 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	23 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	24 	25 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry 
26 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	27 2 p.m. June Angus HF	28 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	29 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	30 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	31 	

