



*Sunnyside News is a weekly publication designed to inform members and subscribers of our current news and events*

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 10, 2009

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### CURTIS GILBERT

Curtis Gilbert, son of Bob and Cami Gilbert, was in a serious automobile accident on Monday morning. He was driving on Hwy. 168, near Herndon Ave., when a woman driving a Suburban in the opposite direction hit a sheet of black ice and lost control of her vehicle. The Suburban crossed the median and hit Curtis head-on. Curtis's truck was forced through the guard rail and down a steep embankment. Curtis did not lose consciousness, but his leg was severely damaged and he had to be removed from his truck by emergency personnel. He was taken to Community Medical Center where surgeons repaired a compound fracture in his lower right leg. The full extent of damage to his leg and knee is still not known, but he will be out of commission for at least three months and may have to undergo additional surgeries. Considering the nature of the collision and the damage done to Curtis' truck, his family is very thankful that Curtis is still alive. He is 19 years old.

### WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Zaher Estassi and Dina Faria, who were married on Sunday, December 6, in Lisbon, Portugal. Zaher and Dina will return to Fresno in early January, where they will make their new home together.

### A NEW BABY

Congratulations to Erbe and Jerma Palafox on the birth on their daughter—Esabelle Justine. She arrived on Thursday, December 3 weighing 7lbs, 11oz. and 19.5 inches long. Everyone is doing well.



### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please come to the Sunnyside Christmas Party and Open House this coming Sabbath afternoon, from 3 to 6 p.m., at the home of Richard and Susan Voth. Their address is 14476 Silk Oak Lane, Madera 93637 (662-1617). Refreshments will be served, and there will be lots of music by members of our congregation: Sunnyside Grace, Alexa Burkhart, Jordan Reijnders, Venita Espinosa, and the Kerbs family. Larry and Prentiss Schlist will lead us in singing Christmas carols.

#### In this week's issue...

Pastor's Notes 1

Worship Celebration 2

Announcements 3

Getting to Know Our Family & Friends 4

The Last Word 5

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

**December 12, 2009  
11:00 A.M.**

**“Hark, the Herald  
Angels Sing”**

**Welcome**  
Pastor Dennis Ray

**“It Came Upon A  
Midnight Clear”**  
**“As With Gladness Men  
of Old”**

**“O Little Town of  
Bethlehem”**

**Garden of Prayer**  
Leo & Angela Reijnders

**Children’s Story**  
Todd Cornwell

**Advent Candle**  
Larry Barber

**“O Come, O Come,  
Immanuel”**

**True Righteousness**  
Pastor Ray

**“Jesus, Oh What a  
Wonderful Child”**  
Camille van Putten

**Offering**

**Benediction**

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
ABC Open House & Sale 10:00 a.m.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
Adventurer Club – Church 6:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**  
Deadline for Bulletin info: bulletin-  
staff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.

**SABBATH, DECEMBER 19**  
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

### PREACHING SCHEDULE

**December 19** — Pastor Ray  
**December 26** — Pastor Ray  
**January 5** — Pastor Cal

### MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

<b>December</b> Approved Budget	\$18,300.00
Amount Received	3,092.67
Over (Short)	(15,207.33)
<b>YTD</b> Approved Budget	\$219,600.00
Amount Received	187,718.94
Over (Short)	(31,881.06)
Youth Pastor Fund	\$32,918.55
Church Building Fund	\$415,233.12

This Week’s Offering  
  
 Inner City Ministries

## YOUTH EVENTS



### VESPERS

December 11 — FAA (Ricchuiti Auditorium) — 6:30pm



### PAINTBALL

December 13 — Leaving HLC @7:30am; returning @4pm  
MUST HAVE SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP WITH YOU TO GO



### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 19 — the Fritz home — 6pm— we’ll play the  
 “White Elephant Game” - so, buy a gift that can be given  
 to a guy or girl; don’t spend more than \$20.



### ANNUAL YOUTH SKI TRIP

February 11-15, 2010 — Start saving your money, now!!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RENOVATION FUND REPORT

We want to thank each one of you who has given to the Church Renovation Project. Our matching gift of \$10,000 has been matched! Any more matching gifts out there?

Because of your giving we have been able to move the project to the point where we are ready to start building new walls and doing the rough plumbing and electrical. As we move through the holiday season we invite each member to give generously to this project. Every dollar given at this time is important to moving the project forward.

If you have not given to this project, now is an excellent time, as we still are well short of the funds needed to complete this project. Please prayerfully consider what you will do.

If you missed the walk-through of our new church a couple of weeks ago, you can view pictures of the progress at the church website: <http://sunnyside.adventistfaith.org>.

### SUNNYSIDE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY & OPEN HOUSE THIS SABBATH - 3 TO 6PM

Plan to join us for a holiday get together for the church family to celebrate the Christmas season. Various church members will be sharing their musical talent. Come and enjoy Christmas music and light desserts, **this Sabbath**, 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Voth's home: 14476 Silk Oak Lane, Madera 93637. Call 662-1617 if you get lost!



*sponsored by the Social Committee*



### ANGEL TREE

Don't forget to bring all gifts wrapped with the angel attached to the church **by next Sabbath!**

*Thank you for supporting this ministry.*

### EARL MYERS IN CONCERT

Annual "Music for the Holiday Season" **this Sabbath at 4:00 p.m.** at Westside SDA Church (2750 Martin Luther King Blvd.) Admission is free to all!

### ABC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to a Holiday Open House & Sale, **this Sunday, 10:00-4:00** at the Adventist Book Center, 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis. We'll have our Truckload Food Sale and great deals on a whole lot more



### PEACE IN THE STORM

CCC 2010 Christian Women's Retreat **January 29-31** at Tenaya Lodge in Yosemite and **February 5-7** at the Soquel Conference Center. Guest speakers for the Tenaya retreat are Shelley Quinn and Cathy Montague. Guest Speakers for the Soquel retreat are Karen Lewis and Alvy Quispe. Each weekend includes two nights lodging and vegetarian meals. For rates and details or to register go online to [ccc.adventist.org](http://ccc.adventist.org) or call Pat Curtis at 642-2396.

### LOST KEYS

Sherry Marsh lost her keys at the Christmas in November Party. If you have a set of keys with a "BETTY-BOOP" key ring on it, it belongs to Sherry. Call her at 224-9005.

**G.L.O.W. RALLY** "Let there be Light" GLOW Rally is sponsored by CCC and will take place on January 10 at Fresno Central Church. Some of the speakers will be Pastor Davis Asschrick, director of Arise; Pastor Don Mackintosh, director of AFCE; and Dr. Eric Walsh of Loma Linda University. Watch for more details.

**GETTING TO KNOW OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY**  
*Building Lives Through Relationships...*



**Yvette, Rod  
Christiana & Elle Kerbs**



**Gwen Saenz**

## THE LAST WORD

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Alesia Sheffield (12/12)  
Rusty Bolinger (12/13)  
Charles Lutz (12/13)  
Laurie Anderson (12/14)  
Todd Bristol (12/14)  
Samantha Espinoza  
(12/14)  
Linda Jeffries (12/16)  
Keith McDonald (12/16)  
Jordyn Pfalzgraff (12/16)  
Ernie Barreto (12/17)  
Bill Hawkins (12/17)  
Jody Liu (12/17)  
Gordon Shumate (12/18)

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Dan & Rene Santos-  
Nozaki (12/13)  
Garry & Susan Clark  
(12/17)

## *LEARNING TO FLY*

by Rabbi David Wolpe

The children's story of Dumbo is about an elephant with abnormally large ears. Do you remember the moral of the story? Perhaps not: elephants may never forget but we surely do. Dumbo discovers that his ears, which make him a figure of ridicule, also enable him to fly. In other words, his disability becomes his gift.

The Greeks tell of Philoctetes, a legendary archer whose skill was honed by his isolation, caused by a terrible wound. When he is recalled by the Greeks who need his skill to win the Trojan War, they owe their victory in part to his affliction.

The Rabbis teach that a repentant sinner can reach a spiritual level that one who did not sin can never touch. For the disability, wound or weakness can be the ladder's rung on which we climb.

Would Moses have risen to such eloquence had he not battled with impeded speech? How much of the magnificence of his late poetry is owed to Milton's blindness? We are grateful for ease, but not always better for it. Often in life the most powerful mark is made not in the becoming, but in the overcoming.