



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

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 23, 2010

PASTOR'S NOTES

HELLO FROM NEBRASKA

Merry Christmas from Cornhusker Country. We arrived last night. It's a little chilly here. The wind chill factor is 15 degrees. The good news is that snow is forecast for tomorrow, so Diane will finally get her long-awaited white Christmas. Due to mechanical problems with our airplane, we spent Wednesday in Dallas. That turned out to be a good thing as it allowed me to wear my Giants jersey and world series hat in Texas Ranger country. My attire did not go unnoticed by the locals. :-) We will be here for another week. If you have need of a pastor while I'm away, please contact Pastor Cal at 367-7026.

SUNNYSIDE'S GENEROSITY

Thank you to everyone who gave to Angel Tree and the family at the Fresno Rescue Mission. Over 80 presents were given to Angel Tree and approximately the same number for the Rescue Mission family. Gifts for the family included a new laptop computer and a television. When I dropped off the gifts at the Rescue Mission on Monday, the workers there could hardly believe how much we had given to the family.

FLOODING IN CHURCH PARKING LOT

We now know where the low spot is on our property. It is at the south end of the parking lot. Due to the recent rains, we've experienced flooding there. Rod Turley and Jack Tolmosoff spent Sunday afternoon raising the large metal storage containers in the parking lot to prevent them being flooded.

PASSING OF STEVE POOLE

Jerry Koch and Linda Estep informed me that their uncle, Steve Poole, passed away on December 5. He had prostate cancer. Steve attended Sunnyside many times in recent years. No services are planned.

HOLIDAY MAGIC CD

Arland Finney and Nancy Isaacs had a hand in creating the 2010 Holiday Magic CD. It is a CD which is created each year for sick children around the world. This year, 3,000 CDs have been delivered to ill children and their siblings around the U.S., Spain, and Singapore. 150 of them were sent to Children's Hospital Central California. You can learn more about it on www.holidaymagiccd.com. Nancy wrote and sang the song "Jeffrey the Surfer Reindeer", and Arland supplied the music. You can listen to the entire CD on Sunday at 7 p.m. at www.radiofreejmt.com.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed from December 24 - January 2. There will not be an e-newsletter next week.

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**WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
December 25, 2010
11:00 A.M.**

*“Angels We Have
Heard on High”
“Hark, the Herald,
Angels Sing”*

Welcome

Kindergarten Class

Offering

Leo & Angela Reijnders

Offertory

Deanna & Clarke Donaghy

Primary Class

Advent Candle

Krogstad Family

*“O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel”*

“What Child Is This”

Jordan Reijnders

“Silent Night”

“The Tablecloth”

Prayer

*“Hallelujah,
Light Is Come”*

Jeanelle Menes &
Eddie Campomanes

“Away in A Manger”

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Garry Clark

“Silent Night”

John Relph

*“The Trouble With
Goodwill”*

Pastor Calvin Redman

“Joy to the World”

Benediction

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

The GROUP Leaders Meeting 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Facilities Committee Meeting – Youth
Room 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 29

Youth Hang Out – Youth Room 4:00 p.m.

Deadline for Bulletin info: bulletin-
staff@sunnysidesda.org 6:00 p.m.

SABBATH, DECEMBER 1

Happy New Year!

Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunset

*This Friday
4:48 p.m.*

*Next Friday
4:52p.m.*

PREACHING SCHEDULE

January 1 — Pastor Cal

January 8 — Pastor Ray

January 15 — Pastor Ray

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

December Church Needs	\$28,000.00
Donations Received	28,078.09
Over (<i>Short</i>)	78.09
Year to Date	283,200.00
Amount Received	242,243.94
Over (<i>Short</i>)	(40,956.06)
Youth Pastor Fund	\$15,586.97

This Week's Offering
Conference Faith Advance

YOUTH EVENTS

COMIN' UP...

February 17-21: Annual Ski Trip - *start saving your money now!!*

Check out more youth stuff at www.sunnysideyouth.com

HEALTHY BYTES

Stressed out? (part 2) We're looking at 8 foods that can help you beat the stress that life throws at you — especially during the holiday season! Last week we talked about oranges, sweet potatoes and dried apricots. This week, let's munch on these:

Almonds, pistachios and walnuts

Almonds are packed with B and E vitamins, which help boost your immune system, and walnuts and pistachios help lower blood pressure.

Spinach

A deficiency in magnesium can cause migraine headaches and a feeling of fatigue. One cup of spinach provides 40 percent of your daily needs for magnesium.

Salmon

Diets high in omega-3 fatty acids protect against heart disease. A study from *Diabetes & Metabolism* found that omega-3s keep the stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline from peaking.

For more info on healthy solutions and recipes, contact
Gale Bolinger at 974-2459 or email at gale4health@comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

First Reading: John & Alesia Sheffield from Clovis.
Patty Kelly from Spokane South Hill.
Don Fournier and Tina Pritchard to Clovis.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

CLOSED
PLEASE CALL AGAIN

The Church Office will be closed **December 24 thru January 2** for the holidays. However, you will be able to reach Pastor Cal (367-7026) and Angela (994-5502) while the office is closed.



DEAR SECRET SANTA...

Being lovers of good surprises, your addition to our Christmas has surely been merry. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

– A Couple of Secret Recipients

DO YOU HAVE A ROOM TO RENT?

Yvette Kerbs is looking for a room to rent. If you have space and would like to open your home to her, please contact Yvette at 309-3541 or kerbsyvette@sbcglobal.net.

AFCOE TO GO

A 10-day training seminar for evangelistic ministry **January 7-16, 2011** at Fresno Central Church. To find out more and to register call 233-1171 or log-on to www.afcoe.org.

FREE DEHYDRATOR

Giving away a large electric dehydrator. It is a *Magic Aire II* with six trays, three years old and only used once. If you are interested in taking this off Marge's hands, it's yours absolutely free. Please call Marge at 255-9657.

A REMINDER FROM OUR CHURCH TREASURER

"I would like to remind our church family that we have until midnight on December 31 to utilize the church website for contributions that will be receipted for calendar year 2010. Any contributions received after that time will be receipted in the new year.

The same applies for normal contributions made through the church service or the mail. Thank you so much for your continued support of our Sunnyside ministries. Your generosity is legendary."

- Ron Fitzgerald

OUR WISH LIST

Since it is the time of year when we think about our Christmas "wish list", Sunnyside decided to get in the spirit and put together a "wish list" of gifts we'd like to receive. These are items that we need to complete our new facility. If you'd like more information, please contact Rod Turley (647-7784).

Sanctuary Speakers \$30,000
The permanent speakers will be mounted to the ceiling, distribute the sound better and will make for more room on the stage.

Video for Sanctuary \$32,000
Includes two projectors for both sides of the stage, computer, DVD player

Kitchen \$80,000
Permits, completion of construction, kitchen equipment, class one hood system

Sound System \$35,000
Digital mix system, microphones, wiring

Sanctuary Art \$4,000
Illuminated glass panels on North and East walls

Benches and Trash Containers \$3,000
Cement benches and trash containers for entrance area

Two Monument Signs \$8,000
(one illuminated) North side and East side of church

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



Ben Liu



Gwen Saenz



THE LAST WORD



Two weeks before Christmas, I left my suburban neighborhood with a small group of friends, and followed an urban minister through the streets of Los Angeles. "Silver bells, silver bells. It's Christmas time in the city...." I sang to myself as we walked busy sidewalks. Contrary to the lyrics of the classic carol by Livingston and Evans, I did not see "children laughing and people passing, meeting smile after smile." Instead, I saw hundreds of homeless people, shattered by addiction and abuse, crowding the streets of a wealthy city. They carried plastic bags containing their meager possessions, while blocks away, busy shoppers rushed home with treasures from designer boutiques. The contrast was sobering and did nothing to improve my holiday funk. I longed for God to provide a divine interruption and remind me of the real reason for celebration.

On the second day of our reality tour, the guide invited us to observe a mobile street ministry called Metro Kidz. We followed their lunch wagon, painted with holy graffiti, as it circled poor neighborhoods. Bright music blared from the speakers and drew hundreds of local children to a quiet cul-de-sac. Ranging in age from toddlers to teens, they raced to hug the pastor as if he were the Pied Piper. He opened his arms and braced himself for a wave of energy. Within minutes, volunteers spread plastic tarps on the asphalt and a human huddle formed on the ground.

"Who wants to play some games?" the young pastor yelled to the attentive crowd. "I do, I do," said one young boy who popped to his feet with confidence. "Let me, let me," a chorus of voices responded. Their joy was contagious and I started to smile on the inside. "Okay," the pastor said. "We'll play some games and pass out some prizes. Then I want to tell the Christmas story. How many have ever heard the story of baby Jesus?" Almost every arm shot into the air.

I was seated cross-legged between wiggling, giggling children when a small boy crawled into my lap and fell asleep. His candy cane smeared sticky sweetness all over my jeans. A warm weight pressed against my side and I turned to find a pretty young lady with dark curly hair. Her braids were clipped with a rainbow of many colors and framed her large brown eyes. "Hello, my name is Sandy. What's your name?" I asked. "Erika," she whispered shyly and glanced down. "How old are you?" I asked, and put my arm around her shoulder. "Five," she told me with a smile. "Do you want to play one of the relay games?" I queried. She grabbed my arm, shook her head vigorously and said, "No please. "That's okay, we can just sit here and watch together," I said and felt her relax.

Experienced volunteers helped the children have silly fun. Prizes of food, toys, candy and books were given to the competitors for as many categories as the leaders could concoct. Winners snatched the rewards and raised them overhead like victory trophies. "Look what I got!" they yelled to their peers. Finally, it was time to hear the Christmas story and to learn a new memory verse. "Listen up," the pastor said to hundreds of squirming kids. "We have a few more rewards to give away. Adults will watch the group and pick out eight boys and girls to receive a quiet prize for the best listening skills during the story." A sudden hush came over the crowd, but lasted only a few seconds. The harder the kids tried to be quiet, the more they wanted to laugh. A giggle started inside of me and I had to swallow a snort before it escaped.

Seated among poor children in the streets of Los Angeles, I felt joy! I felt celebration. I listened to the story of two parents who were forced to seek shelter in a stable, because there was no room for them at the inn. I felt the sleeping boy in my lap and could picture a child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, embraced at the breast of his mother.

Erika listened carefully to the brief version of Christmas Eve and never moved an inch. She watched, and waited patiently for the memory verse competition. "Today's memory verse is from James 1:17. I'll read the words and you repeat after me," the pastor instructed. "Every good and perfect gift comes from God the Father," he said in English and then repeated the verse in Spanish. "Every good and perfect gift comes from God the Father," they repeated. Moments later, an adult volunteer tapped Erika on the shoulder. "Thank you for listening so well, for so long. You have earned one of our quiet prizes," she said and handed the little girl a gift wrapped in red and green tissue paper. "Thank you," Erika responded and hugged the gift without another word.

I watched her face grow a big smile. Other children tore the paper off their prizes to see what treasure they had earned, but not Erika. Instead, she looked down at the child still asleep in my lap, pressed her lips close to my ear, and whispered words that took my breath away. "Now I have something to give my brother for Christmas," she said. Without examining the contents, or knowing if there would be something else for her, Erika gave her gift away. Tears welled in my eyes when I recognized that my own prayer for a divine interruption had just been answered. Erika's Christ-like generosity, and unselfish love for her brother, showed me the true spirit of Christmas. At five years old, Erika understood that love is the perfect gift, and that the best gift of all is the chance to give love away.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Joshua Donaghy (12/25)
Luke Donaghy (12/25)
Caleb Haldeman (12/25)
Mirra Priest (12/25)
David Smith (12/26)
Janelle Ward (12/27)
Mike Ford (12/29)
Joel Chandler (12/30)
Pam Espinosa (12/30)
Peter Jones (12/30)
Jaad Batty (12/31)
Marsha Fox (12/31)
Terrence Shepherd (12/31)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Erbe & Jerma Palafox
(12/27)
Ron & Loanne Soloniuk
(12/29)