

Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church

NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, Number 1
January 2008

FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)
- Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
- Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
- Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)

—Gus Nichols

Happy New Year!

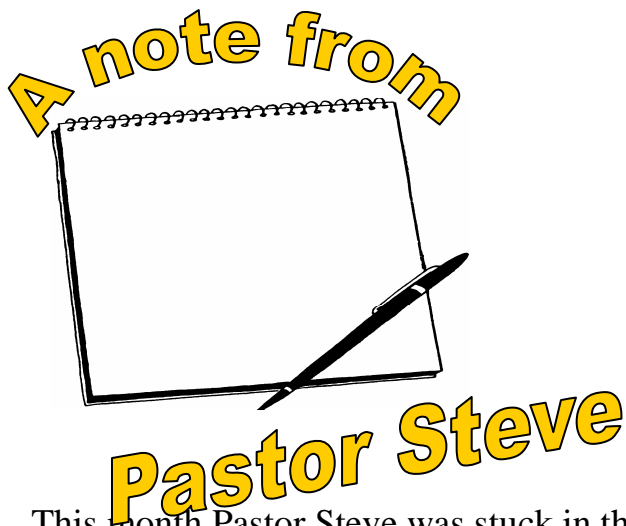
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Dates to put on your calendar—

- Jan. 3-6 Dependence Recovery Class
- Jan. 11 "Experience Prophecy" begins
- Jan. 22 Church Board



This month Pastor Steve was stuck in the mountains when we called for his article. We will look forward to hearing from him next month.

The Gift of Encouragement

One of the most powerful things one person can share with another is encouragement. Encouragement can stop a suicide, a divorce, and countless other tragedies. A word of encouragement can heal someone who is broken and wounded. It can give someone the courage to keep trying.

Our world is full of negative, bitter, uncaring people who can't say anything good about anyone or anything. The people of God should be a radiant contrast to the people of the world. We should bubble over with the joy of the Holy Spirit. We should find it easy to be positive and uplifting. Are you an encouragement to those around you? Don't let someone die from neglect and lack of encouragement. Share your Christian joy!

Your Attention, Please!

PLEASE NOTE: If you mail anything to the church, use the P.O. Box. Mail is not delivered to the street address.

Chad Kreuzer is our speaker for the evangelistic meetings during January and February. While Chad attended college, he had a life changing experience with the Bible. For a number of years, he and Nathaniel Gibbs were the evangelism team for Mission College. More recently he has been traveling the world sharing seminars

on the bible, creation, and prophecy. He and Fadia, his bride of a few weeks, are from the Chicago area. Fadia will be leading out in the addiction recovery seminar.

SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. V is missing from the church library. It is important that it be returned. If you know of its whereabouts, please contact the librarians.

Protecting Religious Liberty will be the talk delivered by Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of church and State. It is at 7:00 p.m. on January 17 at Hope Lutheran Church, 364 E. Barstow, Fresno. Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 224-4001. This is sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Central California.

Thank You. Manna House is grateful to the Oakhurst Church for participating in the Annual Bell Ringing Fundraiser. A big thank you to those that participated: Joyce Norman, Ken & Hope Graeff, Dawn Vogel, Sonia Brown, Carrie Bowman, Sherry Root, Ed Hardy, Fred & BJ Green, Jim Brown, and Charlie Chavez.

Women's Ministries has launched a new program! From Our Hearts to Yours, a Valentine's gift to our soldiers. During January, we will be collecting items to fill goodie boxes to send to our soldiers overseas. There will be a collection box in the foyer where you can place your donations. Please see flyer on Missionary Desk for suggestions. Questions? Please contact Gladys Petersen 877-2966.

The Quiet Hour desperately needs support team members and medical staff to help operate dental, medical and eye clinics in India February 1-16, in the Philippines February 29-March 14, and March 14-29. If interested call 1-800-900-9021.

Celebrate!

Birthdays

January

3 Bonnie Wilson	13 Nicole Garza
5 Mia Valentine	15 Pat Allen
7 Linda Matlock	16 Walt Jenkins
8 Jenny Lockwood	16 Ryan Olson
8 Lyssa Rumble	16 Joel Shipp
10 Karen Moore	17 Gayla Rumble
11 Rosalie Brown	20 Robert Broomfield
11 Thelma Pombo	26 Don Pearson
12 Mel Grabast	28 Gorden Wilson
12 Darlene Herr	29 Charles Chavez
12 Melissa Hobbs	30 Jerry Finneman

February

(1st week)

2 Violet Cree	5 Jim Gilbert
7 Ingrid Wolff	3 Michael Wrona

Anniversaries

January

4 Ron and Lynn Allen
10 Wellesley and Evelyn Muir

February

7 Dan and Judi Guthrie



A Service to Remember!

The baptism of Jasmine Valentine and Raquel Rodriguez on January 5 was a special way to start the New Year.

The girls had originally planned to be baptized in Bass Lake. However, the stormy weather changed their plans. Friday night after the deacons filled the baptismal tank, Irv Curtis found water in the back

hall. He spent a lot of time sopping it up. All was ready for the next morning.

Just before time for the baptism, with Pastor Steve and the two girls with their baptismal robes on ready to step into the tank, Rochelle Isaac, who was playing her trumpet with the orchestra, happened to look in the tank. There was no water at all! She alerted head deacon, Charlie Chavez.

He and Jim Gilbert and then other deacons began to try to refill the tank. There was a leak in the inlet pipe, so they had to bring in garden hoses to fill the tank with water from outside. That meant that someone had to be there to hold the hoses. When that problem was taken care of, the water started running right back out because the drain outlet couldn't be closed tight enough. Someone found a big, flat rubber stopper, but there was not enough water pressure at first to hold it down. Marland Hansen, who was sitting right by the tank, reached over the side with his trumpet and held the stopper down with the bell of the trumpet until the water level came up enough to hold the stopper in place.

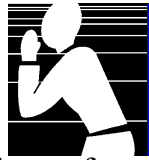
While this was happening Pastor Steve came to the microphone and said that we would go ahead with the sermon first to give the baptistery time to fill. He pointed out that even though the church service does not go according to plan, spontaneity can still be used of God.

At the end of the sermon by Evangelist Chad Kreuzer, the deacons, in a bucket brigade, brought pails of hot water to increase the water temperature.

The angels must have smiled as they watched the determination of all involved to make sure the two girls would be baptized in spite of many obstacles. It was a happy occasion.

We are looking forward to the baptism of Shane Lyster on January 12. Hopefully, the water problems will be fixed by that time.

PRAYER CORNER



Is 26:3 “He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord!” *Ministry of Healing* p 510 “Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor.”

James 5:16b “The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results” *Great Controversy* 525 “It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.”

I John 3:21, 22 “But, dearly loved friends, if our consciences are clear, we can come to the Lord with perfect assurance and trust, and get whatever we ask for because we are obeying Him and doing the things that please Him.” *Desire of Ages* 200 “When we come to Him in faith, every petition enters the heart of God. When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we have received it. Then we are to go about our duties assured that the blessing will be realized when we need it most.”

Hour of Prayer

Wed. 9:15-10-15 a.m. Church Office
Karen Bergh

Prayer Ministries

Contact Persons:

Kathy Fagan: 683-5210 if you have a request for the prayer chain

Karen Bergh: 683-4580 or **Don Bray:** 683-5440 if you have a personal request or interest in a prayer group.

“God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.” 1 Sam 12:23

Praise For—

Andrew Wieg home for Christmas/back to school
Marge Bacchus, healing eye
Lindsay, Alexi, Jasmine home safely
A New Year, 365 Days to Share Jesus!

Pray For—

Those with health problems—

Lisa Menke	Mary Plumlee
Glen Bowen	Evelyn Maynard
Irene Frederico	Helen Aved
Pauline Hunter	Mim Schooley
Don Ericksen	Betty Axt
Kay Mickel	Eduardo Que
Linda Garlick	Rosalie Brown
Miriam Bergh	Evelyn Davis
Kathy Brix	Darlene O’Neil
Thelma Pemberton	Marge Bacchus

Specific requests—

Healing for Kim Daggett after accident
Prayer life of our church
Addictions Seminar
Evangelistic Series
Bowen/Finneman families in their loss
Sabrina at MBA
Mark, Trudy, & Jonah Squires in Nepal
“Missing” members to return
Those who God would have you reach
Ongoing Bible studies
Children/grandchildren
Tristan Smith, Scott Guthrie, Rick, Grant Bray, Greg Bray Merrilee Bray, Karen Wood, Billie Rankin, Tarik Rogers, Toby Peterson, Jon Grabast, Bob Dibble, Charlie Wiseman

Remember to pray daily for members who are not attending.

8:15-8:30 a.m.
Daily
Pray with our school

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

The Oakhurst Community band gave their first Christmas concert on December 2. Herman Brown, Rosalind Hansen, Tyrell McKenzie, and Elizabeth Pombo are all members of the group. A special treat for Rosalind was the surprise arrival of daughter Jan and her husband Rex, and son Tim with his wife Sheri to attend the concert.

Later that same week the Yosemite High School Band gave their Christmas concert. Tyrell McKenzie is also a member of this group.

The Landscape Committee expresses their appreciation and many thanks to Walt Jenkins, Charlie Chavez and George Merkel for finishing work around the church sign. Thanks, as well, to Ed Moore, Jr. for removing the old stump and touching up the leveling in the area.

Ed & Shirley Moore have planted 300 daffodil bulbs on the hillside on Road 426 in front of the church. These bulbs were donated by Vision Academy of the Arts. We thank them for their generosity. They accept donations as they provide awards to benefit high school students and 8th graders. We look forward to seeing them all bloom in the spring.

The Rummage/Boutique/Bake Sale on December 9 sponsored by Community Services was a big success as they received over \$700.

Several women came for the Cookie Baking social on Dec. 12. The group made cookies from their favorite recipes and traded them. They took home a nice variety. They had a wonderful time together to sharing in holidays.

The students of our school under the direction of teacher, Gayla Rumble, put

on an excellent Christmas program on December 19. The hard work they put in preparing and practicing their parts showed in the superb presentation.

A note from Jo Ann Ericksen says they miss their friends in Oakhurst, but they are adjusting to their new location. They enjoy have “home folk” Rosalie Brown and Dale Cottrell there, too.

Congratulations to Zac Page and Leah Hawley who were married in the Bakersfield Hillcrest Church Dec. 30.

Thank you to the Oakhurst School and Jacob Gibbs for raking the leaves around the church.

Our church participated in the North American Division Day of Prayer on January 4. Activities were planned from sundown Friday to sundown Sabbath. One of the strongest storms in five years hit on Friday making it difficult for many members to come out.

The Church Orchestra was very glad to have some new players on January 4. John Mark Brix, Sydney Lapham, and Jenny Lapham joined with others for a total of 17 players.

Congratulations to Zac Page and Leah Hawley who were married in the Bakersfield Hillcrest Church on December 30.

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas fundraising efforts for our school. The funds raised will help with little “extras”.

A GOAL FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Do more than exist; live.
- Do more than touch; feel.
- Do more than look; observe.
- Do more than hear; listen.
- Do more than think; ponder.
- Do more than talk; say something.

Ruby's Ramblings

FROM NOT SO FAR

HAPPY NEW YEAR, dear friends!
December is always such a busy time of the year, but there are many high points: young friends who came and performed a private musical concert for me on piano, violin and flute; annual Christmas musical program at Gramercy Court performed by the staff; receiving welcome cards and letters for both Christmas and birthday from many friends and family whom we hold dear (THANK YOU so much!); and getting together to spend time with family, some whom we get to see very seldom.

I enjoyed my 94th birthday party my family planned for me: the special people who were able to come, including granddaughter Joy, grandson Jeremy and wife Suzanne, daughter Beth and Jerry, daughter Brenda and Dick, and the fabulous "Fruit Basket Cake" we had. Granddaughter Malora and friend Carrie were able to spend Jan. 3 with me on their way driving across country from Idaho, and son Bruce plans to come for the Jan. 11 week-end, which is especially wonderful since daughter Brenda and Dick will be in Ecuador in January.

"In the New Year, may your hearts be filled with joy, love and peace."

R.C.

*"Dear Master, for this coming year
Just one thing I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing –
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leadest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee."*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Like Paul, forget those things which are behind you and press forward. Bringing up past mistakes never solves any problems. It only creates new ones. Let them lie and die.

Like David, lift up your eyes to the hills. From where does your help come? It comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Like Abraham, trust God completely.

Like Enoch, walk in fellowship with your heavenly Father.

Like Moses, suffer rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time.

Like Job, be patient, true and faithful under all circumstances.

Like Joseph, turn your back on all evil impulses.

Like Gideon, advance when your friends are few, for it is better to be with God. He is always with you.

Like Andrew, strive to lead your brother to Christ.

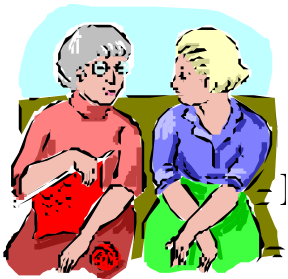
Like Peter, confront your cowardice and let God turn it into confidence.

Like Jesus, live to give unconditional love and compassion

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLVE

To daily seek for wisdom, grace,
and power,
To live for Christ and walk with
Him each hour,
To come each morn with hungry
heart and mind,
And learn the holy art of
being kind;
To watch for clearer visions as
my eyes
Pierce dawn's east window
of divine surprise!

—Adlai Albert Esteb



From Our Hearts to Yours—A Valentine for a Soldier

During the month of January, we are asking for your help in collecting lots of goodies to be placed in boxes and sent to a man or woman soldier in the war to show how much we care.

We need any of the following items: Fruit cups, raisins, power bars, prepackaged Rice Crispy Treats or cookies, cheese crackers, Chex Mix, sunflower seeds or an assortment of non-chocolate candies (chocolate will melt) or gum. Nutri-Grain bars, Fruit Snacks, Jerky, Protein Bars, One-a-Day Active Multivitamins, or a variety of Organic Cliff Energy bars. Or anti-bacterial wipes, nail clippers, foot powder, sunscreen, first aid kit, medicated lip balm w/SPF 15, dental travel kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, floss or mouthwash), shampoo, comb, razors, shaving gel, hand sanitizer, or tissues and gum, sunscreen, shaving gel, foot powder, scented lotions, first-aid kit, comb, nail clippers, nail files, tweezers, body powder, hand sanitizer, pony tail holder, or herbal teas.

Items may be placed in the box in the church foyer and must be received by January 26th so they can be packaged and mailed in time for Valentine's Day. If you'd like to make a cash donation, please place your gift in a tithe envelope marked "Women's Ministries—Soldiers."

If you have any questions, please contact: Gladys Petersen at 877-2966

Secret Sisters!

It's time to get ready for our Secret Sister program! All of our ladies (young and old) are invited to participate in this ministry of caring and sharing with other Sisters in Christ.

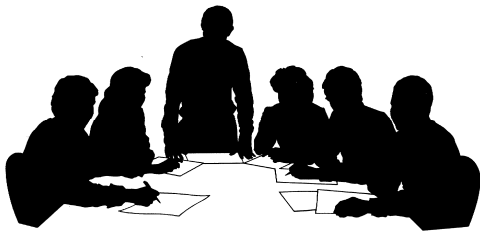
Please pick up your information and signup forms next to the Secret Sisters mailbox on the Missions' desk. Deadline to submit is February 2. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Franger—658-8705.



"...Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." (Deuteronomy 4:9, NIV)

What a privilege we have as parents, family, friends and teachers to keep fresh in our children's memory the wonderful things God has done for us. Has God helped you find something your misplaced? Tell a child about His grace! Has He helped you find the perfect job? Tell a child about His care! Has He given you comfort in trying times? Tell a child about His love! Not only will this encourage our children, it will keep the love of our Heavenly Father fresh in our own minds and hearts. As we begin a fresh new year, watch for God's footprints—and then tell a child!

—Gayla Rumble



A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

To be of greater service, Lord,
A closer student of Thy Word;
To help to bear a brother's load;
To cheer him on the heavenly road.
To tell the lost of Jesus' love,
And how to reach the Home above;
To trust in God whate'er befall,
Be ready at the Master's call
For any task that He may give;
And thus thro' all the year to live
For Him who gave Himself for me,
And taught me that my life should be
A life unselfish—not self-willed,
But with the Holy Spirit filled.

—Author Unknown

December 17, 2007

- **Kids in Discipleship (K.I.D.):** Recommended our representatives get together before seminar. One half of expenses for training seminar will be paid by the conference.
- **Church Door Locks:** Work will resume after holidays. Some locks for church and school will be bought over Internet and installed.
- **Sabbath School Class:** A college age Sabbath School class has been added in pastor's office.
- **School Report:** Christmas program coming up. Jacob Gibbs presented school report. Home and School still selling calendars. Fruitcakes sold out. Family Council Meeting netted \$100.00 from spaghetti dinner.
- **Evangelistic Meetings:** Starting Jan 11. Handbills at printer.
- **Church Facility Maintenance:** Irv presented new form to report maintenance problems.
- **Approved:** Ladies Solo Birthday Club.
- **Voted:** address the issue of starting Sabbath services later at the February board meeting.
- **Voted:** Investigate possibility of getting a free car for two Bible workers. Conference would insure. Some cost would be involved.

NEW BEGINNINGS

How often we wish for another chance
To make a fresh beginning;
A chance to blot out our mistakes
And change failure into winning.

And it does not take a new year
To make a brand-new start,
It only takes a deep desire
To try with all your heart.

To live a little better
And to always be forgiving.
And to add a little sunshine
To the world in which we're living.

So never give up in despair
And think that you are through;
For there's a tomorrow
And a chance to start anew.

—Dwayne Pierce