

Colton SDA Newsletter

December 2010

Scheduling Summit

Attention, all leaders who are planning church events for 2011, there will be a "Scheduling Summit" on Sunday, January 9, at 11:00 AM. Please meet with your committee(s) before that date to put together a proposed list of events, including recommended dates and times. The purpose of the Summit is to coordinate events among all departments, and to avoid scheduling conflicts. See Jerry Johnson if you have any questions.

Jerry Johnson



Sabbath School Council



A Sabbath School Council has been called for Sabbath afternoon, January 8, following the Fellowship Potluck. All superintendents, division leaders, and Sabbath School secretaries are requested to attend this session. Anyone else who is interested in the Sabbath School program is also welcome to attend. See Helen Kovarick if you have any questions.

Jerry Johnson

Editor's Correction: Music Ministry Article November

Last month's article, "Music Ministry" was written by Diana Moura but her name was not cited. Please thank Diana for her contribution. This newsletter would not be possible if not for the contributions of Diana and



other willing souls like her. Any errors are entirely accidental and are stringently avoided, please accept the editor's apology.

Kristi Cruise

Mark Your Calendars

Dec 29 (Wed) – Prayer Meeting: Chuck McConnell

Dec 30 (Thu) – NO "Get Fit 4 God"

Jan 5 (Wed) 8:00 PM – Board of Elders meeting

Jan 8 (Sat) 1:30 PM – Sabbath School Council

Jan 9 (Sun) 11:00 AM – "Scheduling Summit" 2011

Jan 15 (Sat) – New Leaders' Dedication



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Verse of the Month

The Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2: 20

Christmas Cantata

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. That may be true but pictures can not sing, but I wish they could. It would be lovely to hear the music of the cantata again so my soul could rise in praise with the joyous notes of song a second time.

For 5 years now, my family has enjoyed the talents of our church members as they "Thank God for Jesus," as Sadie always says. At Christmas we give thanks for the

sacrifice Jesus made to become one of us, with all the limitations and trials that humanity brings.

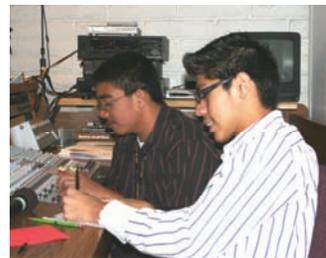
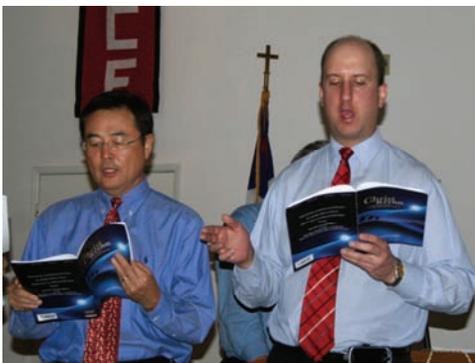
It was inspiring to see the young ladies from the Junior Sabbath School gracefully signing to the words of one of the songs.

When the choir sang "Joy To The World" each face held a joyous expression, as they sang the timeless words.

Remember when Mary looked at the face

of her baby she not only saw the innocence of a baby but also the perfection of God. This Christmas look for the face of Jesus in those around you and try to be the reflection of Him to others. To all who participated in the program, including those who helped with the technical aspects, I want to say, on behalf of the church body, Thank-you! You richly blessed us.

Kristi Cruise



Pastor's Perspective

You are found favorable!

The message of Christmas is a reminder that we have found favor and are loved by God. It is the fundamental truth that counters the worlds' perception that only certain people are more favorably privileged. There are many people, for the most part, that find others more physically attractive, to be admired, and would have their undivided attention. Physical appearance and material status are the most common traits of admiration for many people. This perception seems to be the standard expectancy of acceptance to almost all cultures and it is especially true in our media driven society. Dr. Phil's, the television talk show host reports that attractive people are treated differently because we live in a culture that places a high premium on external appearance. "There are so many forces that make us think that this is important. A multi-billion-dollar global industry exists that centers on appearance (the fitness industry, the cosmetic industry, the fashion industry). These industries are all built on notions of attractiveness." However the message of the Christmas story proves the world perception wrong. The truth is that God finds us favorably acceptable through faith in the life of His incarnated Son, Jesus Christ.

The Christmas story is the revealing story of God, the Creator of the universe, humbling Himself to become flesh to live among us. John 3:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the

glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." The truth is that God is not attracted to us because of any physical and/or material status we inherit as some think. The angel Gabriel said to Mary in Luke 1:26-28, "God sent the angel Gabriel ... to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph ... The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'" God finds the virgin woman named Mary favorable. The virgin woman is prophetically viewed as the people of God, the church. There is no other time of year, as far as our spiritual relationship with God is concerned, that we should feel more special and loved as the people of God than during the Christmas season.

There are three blessing from God that the angel Gabriel shared with Mary. First, Mary was "endowed with grace" according to the original translation. Just as God saw Noah as a righteous man in the midst of the corrupted ancient world, but "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" as the Scripture says in Genesis 6:8. The Christmas message to Mary is a reminder of God's salvation blessing to all of us who love the Lord. God has "endowed upon us grace" in spite of the hypothetical and physical prejudice of the current corrupted world that sees those who love the Lord unfavorably weak and undesirable. However, the Christmas story is the message of God to all those who love the Lord. He has found favor in us for He has endowed eternal grace upon us.

The second blessing is that Mary will be with a child and His name is Jesus, "for he will save His people from their sins" according to Matthew 1:21. There is no better assurance of salvation than for these historical events that Jesus was born, lived, suffered, and resurrected. They are the unfolding truths at the telling of the Christmas story every year. The fact that our physical appearance and material attainment will not be the ticket of acceptance and forgiveness, but only through embracing the incarnated birth of the divine child of God as Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us the child is born... His name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace."

The third blessing is that Mary's question, "how could this be?" was satisfactory answered when the angel Gabriel said to her that when the "Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you... for nothing is impossible with God," Luke 1: 35-37. The Christmas story is a reminder that salvation is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit within us for nothing is impossible with God but only through faithful obedience to the overshadowing works of the Holy Spirit within our hearts.

I pray that we may all get to experience the grace of God upon us, His forgiveness in our lives through the birth of His Son, and the overshadowing presence of the Holy Spirit within our hearts during this Christmas season.

Pastor Mataafa

Potluck Recipe

Veggie Bean Casserole

2 medium carrots, diced
2 celery ribs, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
1 medium green pepper, chopped
3 garlic cloves
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 tablespoons chili powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1 can (28 oz.) diced tomatoes, drained
2 cups frozen corn

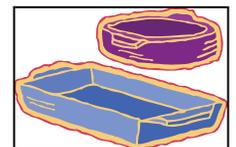
1 can (16 oz.) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (15 oz.) garbanzo beans (or chick peas), rinsed and drained
1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce
2 tablespoons picante sauce

In large sauce pan sauté the carrots, celery, onion, green pepper and garlic in oil for 5 minutes. Add chili powder and cumin and sauté 2 minutes longer. Stir in remaining ingredients; bring to a boil.

In a baking dish cover and bake at 350° F for 45-50 minutes or until thickened and vegetables are tender.

Turns out like a thick stew, very tasty and healthy too. Divide in half for a smaller quantity.

Contributed by Kristi Cruise



Christmas Party



We appreciated the teens who helped with the younger kids.. But we didn't work them too hard.



Jerry played the piano for the caroling.

The older kids took turns helping the little kids.



Colton church's famous annual white elephant gift exchange and party took place December 18. When everyone had eaten their fill, Jerry began the evening with a short devotional. If you ever wanted to know the price of a miracle it is \$1.11. Ask someone who attended the party or Jerry to get the whole story.

No Christmas party would be complete without some caroling and this party was no exception. All the favorites were covered from Silent Night to all three verses of Jingle Bells., I have never sung all the

verses before.

Our church members are very smart, as demonstrated by the games we played. I still don't know how some of the players guessed those carols so fast.

The famous, per Jerry, white elephant gift exchange was as usual very funny. The most popular items this year were a neck massager, and a very cute cookie jar. The teens fought hard over a pre-paid cell phone, and of course the chocolate covered macadamia nuts were also highly sought. To everyone's amazement Helen could actual wear the tennis shoes she

won and even wore them home! Somehow Pastor Bell kept everyone in line and maintained some order in the happy chaos.

Thank-you Cathy Davis for entertaining and organizing the children's party. All the children left the party with smiles and a bag full of games, toys and candy.

Shirley, thank-you for your steadfast kitchen work. And to the others who consistently add to our happiness by maintaining a clean and efficient kitchen.

Kristi Cruise



Helen won the shoes and wore them home.



New Leadership

We recently finished the yearly appointments of our local leadership at the Colton Church. In accordance to the world mission of the Church, our part is to yearly evaluate the leadership through the nominating committee. Our local congregation approves the appointments that are to start at the beginning of the New Year. When new people are elected to new roles, our heritage is to conduct an ordination/dedication ceremony to anoint the new leader in their role: elder, deacon, or deaconess.

I was a participant in the ordination ceremony that took place on December 4th to become an elder for our local congregation. Pastor Mataafa led the service



to impart the solemn responsibilities of being an elder. I was instructed from the Bible on the duties and responsibilities of

the elder position. Pastor related the structure and guidance God placed in both the Old and New Testaments to have His people spiritually fed and led.

How does it feel to have the prayers of the other Elders and Pastor with the laying on of hands during this ceremony? It was awe-inspiring, fearful, weighty, and wonderful. My flawed humanity is not up to the task. Yet I know that God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called. God has given us many promises. Many are to give us strength, knowledge, and wisdom. It is my desire to call upon God's promises to assist me in my duties for Him.

Rob Cruise

Riverside Concert Band

The Riverside Concert Band played to a full house on December 2, 2010. As in years before the band provided the audience with a fun filled and talented per-

formance. Nothing starts the holiday season like a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells and O Holy Night. Special thanks to James Bauchert, who is our liaison

with the band. Thank-you to the decorating and kitchen crew

Kristi Cruise



Community Service Corner

I would like to express many thanks to all who helped with the Christmas baskets ~ all who donated the food items, helped lift and carry the heavy items, sort and assemble the baskets, and the delivery of them. James helped with the computer work for the envelopes and the inserts. Jerry helped with the updates in the bulletin ~ even though I had often forgotten to give them to him. Anthony and some of the youth ~ Donnie, Socorro, Nehemiah, Nathaniel, Noe, etc. ~ helped lift and carry heavy items as needed. Shirley and Anne helped decorate the baskets. On a lighter note ~ usually one would normally see kids coloring in a group, but it

was refreshing to watch a few of our church ladies (Shirley, Eunite, and Elizabeth) sitting around the kitchen 'island' coloring the design on the envelopes that held the church Christmas card which had many signatures of the church members-all of which went into the baskets. Carlos and Mary, Maribel and Jorge, Ellie and Diana Moura gave their time to assemble the baskets. Chuck and Marisa, Elizabeth, Young, Maribel and Jorge, Nestor and Mary Lou, and the Mouras' all helped with the deliveries. I apologize if I missed anyone's name who helped. We had lots more to put in the baskets- courtesy of the Pastor, Eunite, and members

of their family who were responsible for bringing in many fresh foods. It was good to get such great support from our pastor and his family. There was enough fresh food for the baskets as well as for the rest of the church, with still some left to share with the Sunday church. As with the 'loaves and the fishes', there was enough for all. All in all it was a festive time. It was good to see people pitching in, taking pleasure in giving and receiving. Thanks again to all from "Community Services." 'A Merry Christmas to All and a Happy New Year'

Laura Bauchert

Colton SDA Church

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Increasing member
communication

Place
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We're On the Web!
colton.adventistfaith.org

This newsletter was sent to you by a member of the Colton SDA Church.

Church Mission Statement

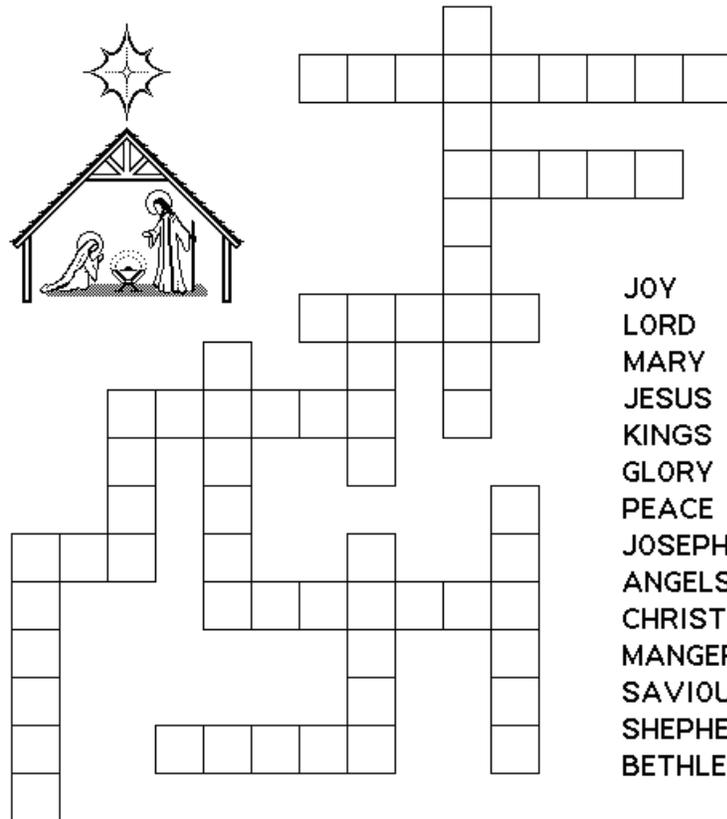
To provide a grace-filled environment where a diversity of worshipers may experience the healing love of Jesus through the ministry of the Word, the community of prayer, the fellowship of God's family, and the opportunity to serve.

Contribution Instructions

The mission of this newsletter is to provide communication and inspiration for our church members. If you would like to contribute, please contact Kristi Cruise at jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net or home phone (909) 872-0394. The next Newsletter will be published December 18. Please turn in your articles or photos by Thursday, December 16 before 5:00 pm.

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM