

Colton SDA Newsletter

December 2011

Up Coming and On Going Activities

Mark Your Calendars



Come join us for Study & Worship Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. and for the following activities.

Dec 24 (Sat) 1:00 PM - Fellowship Potluck: Multi-Purpose Room
Dec 24 (Sat) 1:30 PM - Women's Ministry Meeting
Dec 31 (Sat) 11:00 AM - Communion Sabbath
Jan 4 (Wed) 8:00 PM - Board of Elders meeting
Jan 8 (Sun) 11:00 AM - Scheduling Summit 2012
Jan 14 (Sat) 2:00 PM - Family Ministries Presentation: Gary Smalley
Jan 21 (Sat) 1:00 PM - Deacons & Deaconesses Council Meeting



Jesus is born.

Luke 2:1-7

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Verse of the Month

...out of you (Bethlehem) will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. And he will be their peace.

Micah 5:2, 5

Pastor's Perspective

The Greatest Christmas Gift!

Perhaps at this time of the year some people exhaust their limited resources on their Christmas 'to do list': Christmas lights need to be put up and to be hung outside the house or set up on the lawn, Christmas cards and invitations need to be written and sent out, the shopping list of gifts for families and friends, the estimated number of people who will be coming or to be invited, and you're wondering who will invite you over and your family for a Christmas meal this year, where you will be spending Christmas this year, and the list goes on. Most often the excitement of the Christmas Holidays turns out to be a bitter sweet experience to some families and relatives.

Sometimes the anticipation of the Christmas holiday can be very stressful. Besides the stressful mundane of the Christmas preparation with many details and demands, is a leery feeling, perhaps bitter sweet memories of the past Christmas with previous relationships that keep lurking at the back of your mind. It maybe the fond memories of your childhood with your beloved, but now deceased, parents exchanging gifts with all your siblings who now live far away from home. The sweet memories of past Christmases appears vividly but only the reminiscence of the good old family time together.

The Christmas season can be both blessings and curses depending on your current situation whether you will be together with your family or away from your family. Some single parents may find Christmas the most nerve wracking experience because of no family support for the children. They miss their father or mother because of marriage separation, deployment for war, death of the spouse, infidelity, divorce, or many other reasons. Some family find Christmas a family tradition of gift exchanges and memorable experiences. Laughter and songs of joy during family reunions fill the air.

Whatever Christmas scenario you could possibly imagine, Christmas is about giving up something of great value as a gift for someone you may know or to a stranger. The three strangers from the east, the wise men learned about Jesus who was to be born in Bethlehem, Judea. The wise men studied the messianic prophecies from reading and studying the writing of the prophets. The Scripture says



“...for we have seen His star in the eastern sky and we have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:2)

in Matthew 2: 10, 11; “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (NKJ). The three wise men were divinely led by the stars. The heavenly host inspired them to leave the comfort of their homes and travel so far, just to present their most valuable treasures as gifts to Jesus. The Christmas inspiration is the spirit driven aspiration to show kind-

ness and compassion to someone else that is not of your own race, family, people, religion, neighbor, or not even a relative. Whenever you are moved by the Holy Spirit to honor him or her who is not of your own with heavenly love, that is the spirit-led inspiration of Christmas.

The birth of Jesus Christ is the gift of God to the lost world of sin. Isaiah 6:9 says, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Coun-

selor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace” (NKJ). Matthew 1: 22-23 says, “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, God is with us.” However, not all people got excited about the birth of Jesus. King Herod was driven by a jealous spirit and he

ordered all male children from new born to two years of age be killed. Matthew 2:18 says, “a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because

they are no more.” (NKJ). Christmas is composed of bitter sweet memories of God's work of salvation to save every soul who inclines to accept God's greatest gift; Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, Judea, “...for we have seen His star in the eastern sky and we have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:2)

May the Christmas blessings come upon your family this holiday season.

Pastor Mataafa

A Challenge

It is hard to have a positive attitude when all around us we are bombarded with negativity. On the news we hear how the economy is bad and how cruel humanity has become. And in our own lives we face trials of all kinds that can overwhelm our minds, bodies and spirits. But Jesus promises us an "abundant" life. The best way to

1. _____
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10. _____

remember the abundance the Lord supplies us is to remember our blessing. In the space below list all the things you are thankful for or that you were blessed with this year and those things you are looking forward to in the year 2012. See if you can come up with at least 12 in celebration of the New Year.

11. _____
12. _____
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16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

Activities Report

Men's Ministry Thanksgiving Brunch

For the fifth year in a row, the men of the Colton church assembled at the Big Apple Family Restaurant in Fontana on Sunday morning, November 13, for the annual Men's Ministry Thanksgiving Brunch. The restaurant's buffet island featured eggs, hash browns, biscuits, waffles, crepes, toppings, fresh fruit selections, and a salad bar; Men's Ministry ordered orange juice pitchers for the group. The organizers had reserved a private enclosed patio, and the group enjoyed the perfect autumn weather fellowshiping together. Nestor Domingo provided an uplifting devotional talk, followed by a few comments from Men's Ministry leader Jerry Johnson. After that, the floor was opened to anyone who wanted to share their praises or prayer requests, with many of the seventeen gentlemen in attendance taking the opportunity to speak. The meeting concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Jerry Johnson



Nestor giving a devotional.



A PASTOR'S HEART

A Pastor's heart is **P**rotective and guards his flock from Satan's snares.

A Pastor's heart is **A**ttentive and seeks to know his people's cares.

A Pastor's heart is **S**acrificial and for his sheep will give its all.

A Pastor's heart is **T**ender and listens to the Spirit's call.

A Pastor's heart is **O**bedient and heeds the Master's commands.

A Pastor's heart is **R**eflective and considers he is but a man.



Nestor Domingo

This Pastor Appreciation scripture is taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. It calls upon us to give back to our pastors because of all they have given and done for us: "And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love." The Message



R>L Pastors Mataafa, Moura, and Bell



Pastor Arthur



Nestor hugging Pastor Oliod Moura



Pastor Ulisese Mataafa

Happy Birthday Vi



Vi celebrated her birthday with her church family on November 19, 2011. She is a shining example of how to be a faithful daughter of Christ and a wife, mother and grandmother. Vi has served both the world church and our local church faithfully for many years. Physical ailments have not kept her from being an active participant in the activities of our church. For her special Birthday Sabbath we learned that Vi enjoys gardening, especially growing



orchids. Orchid corsages were issued to the congregation in her honor, but she also received a real orchid plant to enjoy.

Within the last year the Lord has once again blessed Vi with good health. Our church is blessed to have Vi both for her loving personality and her abilities, but also as a living testimony to the power of the Lord to restore us in every way.

Kristi Cruise



Thanksgiving Potluck



Robbie Felix is assisted by Laura Bauchert in pinning on one of the orchid corsages in honor of Vi Bell's Birthday as the busy pair prepares the Thanksgiving feast.



Beys Cristales creates a floral design on the cake in Vi's honor and for the Thanksgiving potluck.

Thanksgiving is a time for reflecting on blessings and to give thanks to those who provide so much. So I would like to spend some time giving thanks and I hope it reflects some of what you are thankful for too.

I am thankful for Jesus Christ who makes all other blessings possible. I am thankful for a family who fills my life with both challenges and joy. I am thankful for the food on the table every day and not just on Thanksgiving. I am thankful for a warm, dry and safe place to lay my head every night.

I am thankful for a church family who accepts and loves the body of Christ in tangible ways. I am thankful for those who work hard

to make our church run smoothly and look nice. I am thankful for those gifted with the ability to make our church fellowship times not only comfortable and fulfilling but beautiful too. I am thankful for those willing to wash dishes and tables and vacuum floors after each event to create a clean environment for the next time. I am thankful for those who create programs and activities that expand my understanding of God and improve my Christian walk. I am thankful for the parents and grandparents who bring and encourage the children of our church. Although I cannot thank everyone individually for the work you have performed, I want you to know every act of service is recognized by Someone. Thank-you.

Kristi Cruise



Josiah Ramirez makes sure the pies are ready.



Young Hong creates a vegetable master piece *almost* too beautiful to eat.

Women's Ministries Gift Wrapping Party for Veronica's Home of Mercy

*Reported on by
the Colton Courier*



The volunteers holding the finished products surround Debra Olguin, second row second from the left, director of Veronica's Home of Mercy.

It all began in January of this year, when the Women's Ministries Committee decided that they wanted to do a community service project for the New Year, 2011. The committee decided to help a women's and children's shelter in Colton. Unfortunately, Mary Lemos soon discovered that no such shelter existed in Colton. But she soon found Veronica's Home of Mercy which serves the women and children in need in San Bernardino.

The first project to serve the shelter was a women's clothing drive in which women of the church donated their clothing. The next step was to help the youngest and most helpless of the shelter with a diaper appeal.

It was only natural for Women's Ministries to support Veronica's Home of Mercy during the Christmas Season. Debra Olguin, the shelter's director, was contacted and soon a list of 35 children was sent to Mary Lemos.

That seemed like a big list for our little congregation but the Committee had a fundraising plan, a Bake Sale. With the money earned from the bake sale and cash donations from church members, the Teamsters Local #166, and a very generous any-



Diana Moura holds up a finished product.

mous donor as well as toy donations from Esther Ortega, and Jeannie Maruffo, all the children received gifts and there was enough to purchase large toys for the play room. The play room gifts included a little kitchen with play food, a tool bench, a tea cart, dress-up clothes and puzzles.



Teresa Padilla and her friend and fellow volunteer Jeannie Maruffo busy wrapping presents.

On Thursday, December 1 a group of volunteers convened in the fellowship hall to wrap all the gifts collected. It was a happy group doing the job of creating attractive gifts for the children of Veronica's Home of Mercy. By 7:30 p.m. the gifts were wrapped and ready to be picked up by Debra Olguin who transported them to the shelter. What a joy to give to others as Jesus would have us do at this most joyous time of year!

Kristi Cruise

Meet a Few of the Riverside Concert Band Members



Nat Lopez can play any sax but has played alto sax in the band for 2 years. He is no stranger to being part of a band having played in the '49 Army band in Vienna, Austria following WWII.



High school senior Armani Miranda and retired preschool teacher Cathy Aliano have both played flute with the band for 4 years. Armani joined the band because her school band teacher said it would give her more practice. Cathy has long enjoyed band memberships including many years with the Covina Band.



Virginia Baker has been playing clarinet with the Riverside Concert Band since 1969. Making her the longest current member.

The Riverside Concert Band delighted us with their talents on December 3. The Band has had a long history of entertaining audiences having had it's start on July 4, 1876. The band is made up individuals with a variety of backgrounds, including teachers, students, railroad men, electronic engineers and even a lawyer, just proving that the love of music knows no bounds. The age range of the members is from 13 to the early 80's, creating a rich environment for the members. City of residence is not exclusive to Riverside but en-

compasses all of the Inland Empire. The locations they play are no less diverse than the members, performing anywhere from Disneyland to the Riverside National Cemetery. An annual tradition for many years the Band completes their Christmas concert season by kicking off Colton Church's Christmas celebration. Thank-you to each member of the band for your willingness to provide our community with quality music with a little comedy thrown in. We look forward to seeing each of you next year. Merry Christmas!



Current Senior at Nortevista High School Nick Lorenz plans to be a trumpet playing chemist.



Lorenzo Williams, a member of the band for 12 years playing trombone, is now retired from Amtrak where he performed countless positions.



Our very own James Bauchert kept the spirit light. Be careful Rudolph or they won't let you play any more!



Band Director Terry MacPherson has been keeping time with the band for 9-10 years. As a retired high school band director he has the experience to more than qualify for any band but chose Riverside Concert Band.



Tony Cavaretta has only been playing in the band with his dad Stephen for a few months, making him the newest member.

Meet a Few of the Audience



As the wife of Saxophone player Gene Andrusco, Donna Stapler knows just what to wear for a Christmas concert.



The Zelaya family settled in for a great performance.



Pamela Thompson and her service dog Duke come every year to hear her husband perform in the band.

Behind the Scenes of the Riverside Concert Band



Cathy Davis is always willing to help.



Blanca Gonzales crafted a whimsical and tasty fruit bouquet.



Shirley Purucker cuts the leaning tower of cake.

Women's Christmas Luncheon



The Women's Ministry Christmas luncheon was held this year on December 11, 2011 at the Lotus Garden in San Bernardino. The good Lord couldn't have blessed us anymore than by sending us a beautiful cool day as we all started arriving at the restaurant.

A total of 41 women (and 1 very young lady) dressed in holiday attire with Christmas spirits and happy moods greeted and hugged one another then quickly took their seats.

Surprisingly, they found that the Women's Ministry had set on the table a Christmas gift for each one of them! A decorative soap in the form of a purse, a high heel, or a flip flop that was personally made and placed in a decorative bag that was labeled "Happiness" in Chinese. The soaps were hand made by Mary Lemos and the decorative bags decorated by Carmi Frias.

Some of our members brought family and friends and we asked them to stand with their guest and introduce them. Mothers, sisters, cousins, and friends were then welcomed by everyone.

The devotion entitled "Life of Service" was given by Eunite. To summarize the dedication she let us know how God places us on his battleship (his church), not a cruise ship. On the battleship we all have a station to man. There is training and preparation taking place daily. Everyone is assigned to different tasks, and must stand ready in case the enemy attacks. Some of you serve on the battleship in the Children's department, as Deaconesses, Family Ministry, Women's Ministry, Community Service organizers, Faithful Prayer Warriors, Music talents, or being a spiritual role model for your own family. You influence them to do God's will and they in turn work alongside with you serving on God's battleship. Though the battle can be forceful at times, just remember, if we stay united on God's battleship, we will make it safely to the other shore." Eunite tenderly ended with a personal note that she was very proud of the Women at Colton church!





Following prayer by Mary Lou Domingo, the women were treated to an exquisite luncheon which included specialties in Chinese and Mandarin Cuisine. Six different delicious dishes were brought out freshly cooked with rice and noodles to complete the meal.

Next on our agenda was the moment of honoring and recognizing our “Women in Faith.” Seven surprised young women were called to stand as the presenters, Mary Lou Domingo, Carmi Frias, and Mary Lemos, said a few words of their many good deeds. We recognized the many times God has personally summoned them and given them strength to willingly answer His call. Netanya Domingo, Jasmine Gonzales, Carla Rangel, LeAnn Galvan, Esther Gonzales, Socorro Castellanos, and Diana Moura. These young ladies have devoted so much time and talent to the many activities with the church (health fair, children’s church, Jr. Deaconess, vacation bible school, music, etc), and the activities with their peers as well. They have proven that they are role models and leaders. They have earned the respect from the members of the Colton Church because of their willingness to always contribute and help out.



The Women of Colton Church were told that we had had a very good year and the success of that came about because of each one of the church members. The success means not only the hard work of the committee members but also most important the members of the church who are willing to participate with the events that the Women’s Ministries put on. The group was then dismissed with a prayer by Ellie Moura.



I know that we have our work cut out for us next year and we look forward to many new adventures that the Lord will give us. I hope that all of you reading this will mention to a Women’s Ministry Committee member an idea or something fun or heartwarming that you have experienced. We need all the ideas we can get for our next year’s agenda.

Teresa Padilla



Christmas Program

The participants of the program. 4th row: Nilah, Samantha, Kristen, Nara
3rd row: Charles, Nestor, Jerry, Ulisese, Art, James, Jason, Armand
2nd row: Diana, Vi, Eunite, Netayna, Carmi, Sandra 1st row Esther



James Bauchert was on double duty as narrator and choir member.



For Sandra Kebbas, Netanya Domingo and Nestor Domingo the Christmas program was a family activity.



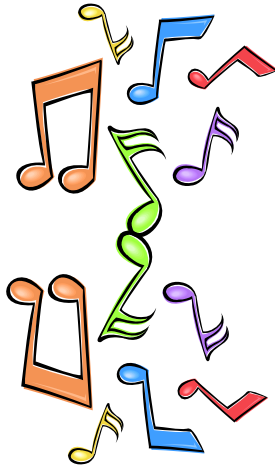
Teresa Padilla and granddaughter Hope shared a music book as they bonded through music.



Diana Moura and Charles McConnell lead the congregation in carols.



Jason Frias performed *O Holy Night*.



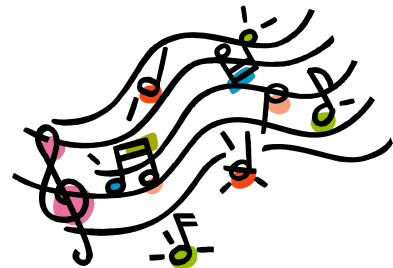
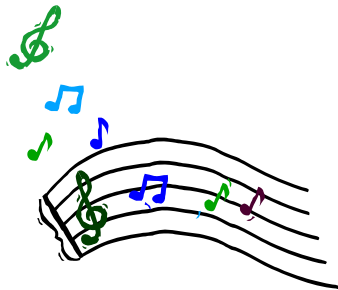
Jason's background singers from left to right: Carmi Frias, Eunite Mataafa and Sandra Kebbas.



There are many gifts of the Christmas Season. We enjoy the beautiful decorations on and in our homes, businesses and stores also create magnificent displays of color and light. We purchase and wrap presents in pretty paper to give to friends and relatives. We, ourselves, receive equally lovely presents both practical and frivolous. But one of the best gifts of the season is the music. Some of the best music ever written is in celebration and honor of our Savior's birth. Christmas music is the most recognizable music and is sung in many countries and in many languages. On Sabbath, December 17, 2011 our church was blessed with a program of musical praise to Jesus. Diana Moura and Charles McConnell began the celebration by leading the congregation in some familiar carols.

Even the offertory was extra special with an amazing piano piece by Armand Domingo. Then the choir, made up of church members, proceeded to fill the sanctuary with harmony and joy. The spirit of the holidays was projected in the voices of the choir and reflected on the faces of the audience. To conclude the services Jason Frias played guitar and sang *O Holy Night* with Carmi Frias, Eunite Mataafa and Sandra Kebbas. With a final prayer by Pastor Mataafa the congregation left the church with their hearts and souls warmed and strengthened with the reminder of God's greatest Gift to us. Merry *Christmas!*

Kristi Cruise



Nilah Mataafa, Samatha Broom, Kristen Elsasser and Nara Mataafa were directed in sign language by Marissa McConnell.



Christmas Party

Every year it's the same. Every year it's different! Every year members and their friends convene in the fellowship hall for a Christmas While Elephant party. Every year there is good food and fellowship. And every year there is one item that seems to catch everyone's eye. All of that was true this year! But unlike any year the most favored item was a Christmas decoration dubbed "The Capsule" by Carlos. Nearly every participant held "The Capsule" in their possession for a short time, but only Tammy and Gordon Figueroa took it home. Amazingly just like last year someone received a pair of shoes and were thrilled to have them. I can hardly wait to see Elizabeth in her first heels. Just like always, some poor

man ended up with a girly gift, poor Abner is going to find it difficult to use a hair flat iron. The gifts, as always, ranged from silly to beautiful and thankfully just like always there was an abundance of laughter and silliness to see us through another year until we do it again. Tucked away from the fray of gift "stealing" the children enjoyed a multitude of crafts planned by Cathy Davis and supervised by Robbie Felix. Thank-you ladies once again for allowing parents like me an evening of child free enjoyment.

Kristi Cruise



Elizabeth can't wait to wear those heels!



Ed brought his son Ed Junior; good to see him again.



This headhunter was in high demand. But Dean didn't go home with it.



The children were more serious then the adults!



Anne received the gift with the most unusual wrapping. So simple and convenient!



Alma shows Abner how to use his gift.



Anthony was the first to receive the much desired "Capsule" but not the last.



Thank-you Robbie for keeping the youngest members and visitors entertained!



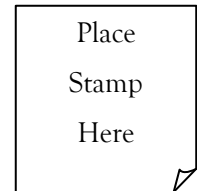
Kristen and her brother Jacob await the festivities.



James and Leanne can't wait to see if they want to "steal" Blanca's gift.



Sorry Carlos...No "Capsule" for you! Better luck next year!



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Increasing member communication



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.

Name the Prophet

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) This prophet asked if a leopard could change his spots. | 7) Who was slapped in the face for calling one of King Ahab's prophets a liar. |
| 2) This one saw a flying scroll in a vision. | 8) This prophet wrote the shortest book of the Old Testament. |
| 3) Who talks about the "sword of the Lord?" | 9) This one lost his shade tree to a hungry worm. |
| 4) This prophet ate a scroll. Hopefully, it was just a vision. | 10) He was a shepherd and a fig-tree gardener. |
| 5) A seraph touched this prophet's mouth with a hot coal. | |
| 6) He made a axe head float in water. | |

Contribution Instructions

This newsletter provides communication and inspiration for our church members. If you would like to contribute, please contact Kristi Cruise at jrkljrcruise@sbcglobal.net or home phone (909) 872-0394. The next Newsletter will be distributed January 14. Please turn in your articles or photos by Tuesday, January 10 before 5:00 pm.

Answers to Last Month's Trivia

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Beatitudes | shown mercy. |
| 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit,...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | 6) Blessed are the pure in heart,...for they will see God. |
| 2) Blessed are those who mourn,...for they will be comforted. | 7) Blessed are the peacemakers,...for they will be called sons of God. |
| 3) Blessed are the meek,...for they will inherit the earth. | 8) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. |
| 4) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,...for they will be filled. | |
| 5) Blessed are the merciful,...for they will be | |