

Mark Your Calendars

Come join us for Study & Worship Saturday mornings at 10 a.m., Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and for the following activities.

Feb 28 1:00 PM Fellowship Potluck
Feb 28 1:00 PM Deaconess Meeting
Feb 28 2:00 PM Weekend Seminar
Mar 1 8:00 AM Men's Ministry Project Day
Mar 7 1:00 PM Health Expo Planning for 2015

Mar 8 11:00 AM Planting Class
Mar 14 Women's Ministry Sabbath
Mar 14 3:00 PM Friends Next Door Bible Club
Mar 15 8:00 AM .International Breakfast Fundraiser
Mar 15 8:00 AM Church Work Bee
Mar 15 11:00 AM Church Board Meeting
Mar 20-21 7:00PM/2:00PM Weekend Seminar: Single & Marriage
Mar 28 11:00 AM Communion Sabbath
Mar 28 1:00 PM Picnic-Style Potluck

Mar 28 3:30 PM Healthy Resolutions Group Walk: Crafton Hills Preserve
Apr 4 11:00 AM Easter Cantata
Apr 4 1:00 PM Potluck Sabbath
Apr 11 3:00 PM Friends Next Door Bible Club
Apr 12 9:00 AM Charter Bus Trip to Calif. Poppy Rsv/High Desert
Apr 18 6:00 PM Wedding Reception for Netanya & Henry
Apr 19 8:00AM Church Work Bee

January/February 2015

COLTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Newsletter



Starting The
Year Out
Right
Page 2

Friends Next Door
Page 3



Baby Dedication
Page 4

Valentine's
Day Potluck
Page 2



Valentines Day Potluck

Valentines Day fell on Sabbath this year so it was especially fun at the Valentine Potluck. As I was listening to the Valentine conversation questions Cathy Davis was reading to the happy group I began to think about love.

What does love mean to you? In English we have only one word for love but in the Greek language there are at least four different words for love each with a very different meaning. I am sure you have heard of these; *agape*, *philia*, *storge* and *eros*.

We discuss *agape* love often, as it means charity and the love of God for man and of man for God. *Philia* love is the love of friendship and is usually between equals.

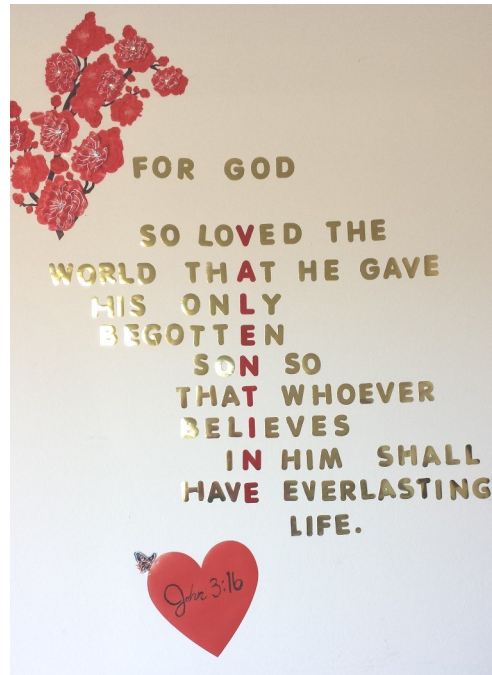
Storge is a love of affection especially of parents for their children. And *eros* is the kind of love that makes people blush and get a little nervous, it describes sexual attraction.

When I was a teenager I had a very strict idea of love and it revolved around *eros*. I thought love was really only about lovers and that funny feeling of excitement the opposite sex creates in a person.

As I grew up I began to realize that the Greek have it right. There is a huge spectrum of love and yet each type is powerful and life altering in their own

way.

It is interesting how God uses our understand of love to explain His love to us through out the Bible. The Old Testament is



full of examples of God using *eros* to explain His intense love for us. In Isaiah he constantly refers to Himself as the husband of Israel. He mourns and weeps over the harlotry of Israel as they continue to pursue other lovers, ie. idolatry. In the New Testament Jesus is shown as a Bridegroom anxiously awaiting His bride, ie. the church.

Repeatedly God uses *storge*, the love of a parent, to express His

love for us. Jesus used the love of a mother hen for her chicks as He mourned for Jerusalem, "...I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her

wings..." Matthew 23:37 The story of the prodigal son is a very moving demonstration of His love for us as a Father.

Agape love is a theme through out the Bible with its begins in the very first chapter of Genesis as God creates people for Himself. Paul says, "For we are God's workmanship..." Ephesians 2:10 We are created to love and worship Him.

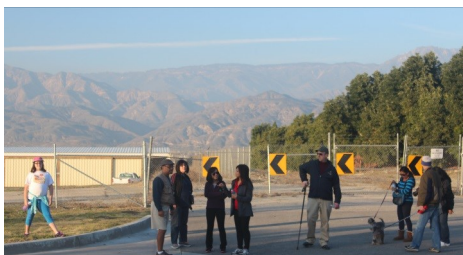
The greatest expression of God's love for us is Jesus Himself. Jesus is a full expression of *philia* love, the love of friendship between equals. Jesus left the courts of heaven and became human in order to prove to us that He sees us as friends.

He came to make sure we know He understands us. He so longs for a friendship with us that He will use every definition of love to show us, including, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

Read the Bible as a love story for it is the best love story ever written.

"What does love mean to you?"

Starting The Year Out Right



Jerry Johnson led a group of energetic church members on a walk on Sabbath afternoon January 3, 2015. The walk began at the Redlands Sports Complex. The group

enjoyed fellowship and fresh air while taking in the sights of orange groves, businesses, and the mountain views that surrounded the route. Keep your eye out for the next walking/hiking event and be sure to come.

Friends Next Door

“What is Friends Next Door?” you may wonder. Friends Next Door is a voluntary Bible club at Loma Linda Academy in which high school students dedicate time every week to prepare Christian children's programs in a participating church. We are especially blessed to have this group at our church this school year.

Each month on the second Sabbath of the month these young people with their club sponsor Gene Oswald descend with energy, creativity and kindness to produce exciting, silly and thought provoking dramas, games, crafts, and PUPPET SHOWS! (Sorry I got excited there.) Much of the PUPPET SHOWS (oops got excited again.) and DRAMAS (excited again.) are written by the students themselves which makes the familiar Bible stories feel fresh and new to the kids attending and to the few “old people” who come to each meeting.

What impresses me most about this group of young people? It is really hard for me to pin down just one thing that impresses me about them, so let me list them out. This club is voluntary. This means these kids are not trying to earn a grade or being required to participate. They choose to dedicate their time, which in high school there is

very little time left after the required activities are completed. They choose to give their time



and talents not just once but repeatedly through the school year both to prepare and then perform.

These young people come with joy and excitement to entertain the children awaiting them. They begin with songs that are so contagious that the kids sing them outside of the program. (Trust me, it's true!) Then they launch into a memorized drama Bible story complete with costumes. Did I mention memorized?! Mr. Oswald always makes sure the group understands the story as it is told in the Bible and then the group is off to game time. Game time not only “gets the wiggles out” but also reinforces the story they just heard.

Now that the “wiggles are out,” (I'm not sure that really ever happens, but...) the group will convene for crafts. Once they made spy binoculars (for the Old Testament spies) and this last time it was lion puppets (If you can't figure which story that was, check out the book of Daniel.)



By now both the kids and the teens are ready for a snack. At

Christmas the kid got to decorate cookies shaped like the na-

tivity characters. But this last one was very creative! Everyone ate their very own lion! (Don't panic it was vegetarian but not made of tofu.)

For most programs this would be plenty and it would be time to say farewell, but not for this club! Convening back in the sanctuary it is time for a PUPPET SHOW! (I'm not the only one who gets excited about this.) In a final story done as only puppets can, the Bible story is again told or explained with much humor and entertainment.

Still the fun continues with more songs of praise to our Lord with the full enthusiasm of both leaders and children.

This is truly an awesome ministry that these young adult create every month for our community. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY! (Sorry I got excited again, but this really is exciting.) Not



only will your friends and family be blessed but we can also encourage a very talented and dedicated group of high school students as well.

As a matter of prayer I ask that you pray for this outreach for both the performers and for the audience members. This club is currently mostly composed of seniors. Do you understand the import of that? If we want this club to return to our church next year we must pray that the club attracts more underclassmen. In the next issue of the newsletter you will be introduced to the members of this amazing club.

“Much of the puppet shows and dramas are written by the students themselves.”

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Adventist Church**

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Ellie Michelle Martinez Perez

On December 20, 2014 Ellie Michelle Martinez Perez was dedicated to the Lord. Pastor Peckham presented little Ellie to the congregation and prayed a special blessing on her and her

mother Crystal. Her family surrounded her and took seriously their responsibility to contribute to the spiritual growth of little Ellie.



Dean

On February 7, 2015, the Colton Church family gathered to remember one of our church family; Dean Czlapinski. It came as quite a shock just a week earlier to hear the sad news of her unexpected passing. The Memorial service was well attended by those who wanted to share their comfort to Cathy and the rest of Dean's close relatives in attendance. We got to hear stories in which Dean helped people and contributed to the church.

As Christians, we know that this is just a pause. We will see her again at the Second Coming. Paul states, "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him... For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the

archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first." 1 Thes. 4:13-14,16

