

## 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.

- Apr 24-25 7:00PM/2:00PM Weekend Seminar: Discipleship/Friendship/Caring/Finance
- Apr 26 8:00 AM Men's Ministry Project Day at the Church
- Apr 26 9:00 AM Yard Sale / Fundraiser Day
- May 1-3 Camp-In at the Church
- May 2 3:00 PM Healthy Resolutions Group Walk: Colton

- May 2 8:00 PM Young Adults Fundraiser (at the Camp-In event)
- May 9 1:00 PM Mother's Day Potluck
- May 9 3:00 PM Friends Next Door Bible Club
- May 12 6:00 PM VBS Preparation Evening
- May 16 3:00 PM Outreach to Brookside Healthcare Center
- May 17 8AM / 11AM Church Work Bee / Church Board Meeting
- May 19 6:00 PM VBS Preparation Evening
- May 26 6:00 PM VBS Preparation Evening
- May 29-30 7:00PM/2:00PM Weekend Seminar: Bible Explorer
- Jun 2 6:00 PM VBS Preparation Evening
- Jun 6 11:00 AM Communion Sabbath

- Jun 7 :00 AM Sewing Class
- Jun 9 6:00 PM VBS Preparation Evening
- Jun 13 NO FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK
- Jun 16 6:00 PM VBS Preparation Evening
- Jun 17 8:00 PM Church Board Meeting
- Jun 20 1:00 PM Father's Day Potluck & Graduation Potluck
- Jun 22-27 6:00 PM(M-F) Vacation Bible School
- Jun 28 1:00 PM VBS Potluck (in place of regular Fellowship Potluck)

March/April 2015

## Pastoral Message

Greetings

Hope all is well with you today!

"Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:16-17).

I'm excited about the study of "Matthew 5 -7 (Sermon series "Kingdoms Collision"). I per-

sonally believe, we are living in difficulty times. You may agree or disagree with me, but your Christian beliefs and values are being treated absurdly insane by the worldly society today. This mischaracterization is done openly at the political arena and secular culture society as media reports. Please join with me in the journey of "sermon on the mount" study of Matthew 5 -7.

The "Discipleship & Witnessing Seminar" based on the Matt. 5:13-14 every 3rd weekend of each month, Friday 7 pm and Sabbath 2 pm. Hope you'll be able to attend these seminars with an invited friend or friends.

Praying to see you there.

Pastor Vadim is excited about the excellent training seminars coming up: "Storytelling Imagination" and "Bible Reading Come-alive". You will be invited to these upcoming seminars through personal personal invitation and email. Pray that your giftedness in these areas will be polished for the glory of God. May your faith hold you strong.

With prayers!!  
*Pastor Mataafa*

## Wheels for the World



This was the first time our Colton Church collected items for the Wheels for the World organization. Wheels for the World is a volunteer group associated with Joni and Friends Ministries, that collects walkers, wheelchairs, canes and crutches. If needed

they repair these items and then volunteers take these items to poor areas of the world.

The people in these poor areas are given these ambulation devices as a free gift. Often it is the first time an adult or child has been able to stand or move. The volunteer will tell them how Jesus wants to be their friend, that He loves them very much, and they can always talk to Him.

*Shirley Purucker*



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## What If....

What if Jesus had come the way the Jews had expected? If so, Jesus would have been born to a man of privilege, prestige, and prosperity. His earthy father would have been a part of the priesthood and a Pharisee of the highest piety. This earthly father would have been the first century equivalent of a combination of Bill Gates and Billy Graham.

His mother would have been a woman from a family of the upper class, her father would have been a high priest and she would have been the combination of the best of Martha Stewart and Mother Teresa.

His earthly parents would have been married at the largest society wedding in history. And Jesus would have been born a respectable 10 months following the wedding removing any question of His legitimacy.

His cradle would have been made of the best wood, inlaid with gold and silver and encrusted with gems of the best color and clarity. His blankets would have been made of the finest fabrics dyed the richest and most vibrant colors.

His entire childhood would have been filled with the best the world had to offer. He would have attended the best schools of the rabbis. He would have learned all the laws of God and the Pharisee's application of those laws from the best teachers of the time. His tassels and phylacteries would have been the longest and largest and the most beautiful. He would have thrilled the hearts of high society with his sermons full of words that assured His audience of their right to God by their birth and their works.

His charisma would have created a shift of political power placing Jerusalem at the heart of a powerful kingdom.

Could you have related to such a savior? Could that type of advent have changed the world? Would it have created an example of humility and self-sacrifice?

You know how Jesus came. We repeat the sacred story of His birth, and His death and resurrection every year. Each Sabbath we discuss His life and His words. If Jesus had come as a king and lived a life of luxury would you believe in Him? Would you believe the words found in Hebrews 4:15, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."

If Jesus had come as the Jews of the first century expected, I could not have believed that Jesus understands my struggles. How could I believe that He understands what it is like to work hard and still never achieve success as the world defines it. If Jesus had come like the Jews expected I would have been lost. How about you?

Instead Jesus came as a baby born to poor parents under suspicion of illegitimacy. He was laid in a manger filled with prickly hay in a barn full of animals and their smells at His birth. He had to flee for His life from an evil king. He felt the pain of rejection from the beginning. "He was despised and rejected by men a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." Isaiah 53:3 He wore the coarse clothing of the poor from His birth and was not the most handsome man ever seen. "He had not beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him." Isaiah 53:2b



Jesus came not to have the best this world has or to receive honor in the way the earth gives it. He came to sympathize with our troubles and to save us. Jesus chose His parents, the time in which He would be born, and the place of His birth before the foundations of the earth were even laid. Unlike you and me He chose His parents. He could have chosen an easier path, but instead He chose the perfect path. He chose to live a life we could relate to, a life that would show us how to live for eternity.

No matter how hard your life has been, Jesus's life was harder. No matter how you have been tempted Jesus was tempted with more. No matter how deep your sorrow, Jesus wept blood. Jesus can sympathize and comfort you and me because he lived life as we have to live it.

We have an amazing Savior with power and love that we can not fathom. I look forward to studying the mystery of the incarnation through all of eternity. What about you?

*Kristi Cruise*

**"If Jesus had come like the Jews expected I would have been lost. How about you?"**

## Friends Next Door



**Gene Oswald** is a Bible teacher at Loma Linda Academy and the sponsor of Friends Next Door Bible Club. This is not the first time he has been involved in youth outreach both within the Seventh-day Adventist Church and in other Christian organizations. Puppetry has been a vehicle for his outreach for years and continues to be a vital part of Friends Next Door. He has been with the club from the beginning and as a matter of fact he provided the inspiration for it. It began as a Bible class assignment for students to develop an outreach ministry. One of the students looked at the list of ideas Gene had provided and decided a Children's puppet program was right for him. Unfortunately the first year was a rocky one but Mr. Oz, as he is known by this students, made a rather strong appeal for more volunteers for the following year. Many of the current students are a part of the program due to his strong encouragement. So why does Mr. Oswald devote every Wednesday's

lunch break, Monday evenings, some Friday evenings and one Sabbath afternoon a month to this club? "Students need to get into evangelism as young adults." They need to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and the best way to do that is through fulfilling the Great Commission. For him one of the best parts of the experience is watching all the preparation and practice unfold on the stage as the club performs. But the ultimate reward is seeing those same students years later as active members of church life and outreach.

**Elizabeth Bates** has been a part of the Friends Next Door Bible Club from her freshmen year when the program was first started by a Senior to fulfill his Bible class requirements. She is the first to say that the first year did not go smoothly but she stuck with it, and in many ways she is a large factor in its success. She is the primary skit and puppet drama writer. It is no surprise then that one of the best parts for her is the skits. But above seeing her skits come to life is just the fun of playing with the kids. She is going to miss the club when she goes to college next year, but rumor has it she still may be asked to help write more scripts!



"Students need to get into evangelism as young adults."



For **Jessica Bates**, who with her sister has been in the club from the beginning, the best part of the club is playing games with the kids and the skits. As a senior this is her last year in the club. But she, as well as

other senior club members, has been actively recruiting under classmen to keep the club intact after she heads to Andrews University next school year.



**Ruby Ramirez** is a junior this year and this is her first year in the club. When asked why she joined she said she had heard a lot about club and finally decided she would regret not being a part of it when she moved on from

high school. Her favorite part of the club is the actual performance after weeks of preparation. She plans to be a part of the group next year!



**Moriah Perkins** is a junior this year. When asked why she joined she gave a list: to fulfill her community service requirement for school, to see her friends, and because of the kids. She just loves doing it and

sees it as a ministry. Her favorite part is practice. She also plans to be a part of the program next year!

These are just a few of the members of this remarkable club. I look forward to talking to other members of the club and passing on to our church family what I learn about these creative and dedicated students.

*Kristi Cruise*





## Women's Ministry—Bring a Friend to Church



“...this event created a creative and inviting way to introduce church to a co-worker or friend.”

Women's Ministry organized a bring a friend to church Sabbath. Although every Sabbath can be a “bring a friend to church Sabbath,” this event created a creative and inviting way to introduce church to a co-worker or friend. Many ladies took part, as these smiling faces demonstrate.

The church service was special in that Eunita Mataafa was the main speaker. She discussed the friendship between Jonathan and David. Taking it one step farther she opened up the scripture to demonstrate how Christ is revealed in the life of Jonathan through his love and care of his friend David. It was a very insightful and well present-

ed sermon. If you missed it check and see if you can get a recording. It will definitely increase your understanding of both friendship here on earth and of Christ's love for each of us.

Following the church service was a potluck in which the guests were encourage to attend. Thank-you Women's Ministry team for your hard work and this inventive way to invite our family and friends to church.

*Kristi Cruise*

## Plan B Animal Facts



What is Plan B? Plan A was how God wanted the earth to be in the beginning when everything was perfect. There was to be health, happiness and immortality.

However we live in Plan B, this is how God reordered His creation after sin. Sin brings death and imbalance to God's creation. God had to adjust His creation to a now polluted and evil world. Animal sacrifices were instituted for Adam and his family to understand the full penalty of death. After the flood God allowed people to kill any kind of animal and eat it Genesis 9:3. In Job 37:39 we see that God feeds all the animals even at the expense of another's life.

And yet Paul says that nature, even with the stain of sin and death, still testifies to the existence, power and character of God. (Romans 1:20)

Because of nature's testimony, each edition of the newsletter will include interesting animal facts that I hope will direct your mind to God as Creator and Redeemer.

Our first animal will be the ant. Proverbs 6:6, "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" Even if you are not lazy, this verse promises we can be wise if we study them. Ants are amazing.

### *Things You Probably Know*

\*There are different sizes of ants within the same colony. These different sizes coincide with the work they have been given. The largest is the queen, then the soldier and, the gathers and then the smallest is the most numerous and they maintain the nest.

\*Ant colonies are made of one large family. A queen and all of her daughters.

\*Ant society is a highly sophisticated and highly organized col-

lective endeavor.

\*The queen ant is often the size of a baby mouse.

\*Multiple generations of ants work together for the good of the colony.

\*Ants use scent to make trails. When the ant leaves the nest it lays a scent trail. If the same ant finds food it will reinforce the trail by laying down scent on the way back to the colony. If it doesn't find food it will simply follow its trail home but will not lay down more scent to reinforce her trail. This technique makes the trails that lead to food stronger and naturally allows for the fading of the non-profitable trails.

\*Soldier ants will sacrifice themselves to save the lives of its nest mates.

### *Things You Probably Don't Know*

\*Soldier ants follow predictable patterns of patrol through the nest with a majority of them crossing through the chamber that holds the queen.

\*Ants can cross bodies of water on rafts made of their own bodies. They do this without drowning each other. Instead each ant creates a layer of air around themselves. This water provides air to breath and creates buoyancy. Each ant has fine hairs that basically Velcros them to their nest mates. This creates a raft of ants that makes it nearly impossible to sink.

\*Male ants are only born in the summer and to mate. Then they die. And the queen ant never mates again, they have enough sperm to lay their eggs for their entire life time.

\*Each ant egg is exactly the same. How the worker ants feed the ants determines what job in the colony the ant becomes.

\*Ants fertilize the soil around

their nest which increases plant growth which in turn increases the diversity of animal life around it.

\*Ants chirp by rubbing 2 parts of their abdomen together. This sound calls other ants to the best parts of food. They can also send stress sounds that alert the other ants that she is in danger.

\*Ants have ingenious methods for solving problems. When looking for a new nest site the ant uses its sent trail to discover the size of the area of the site to discover if it is big enough. But one ants is not enough to move the whole colony. So she will physically bring another ant to check it out. If she also likes it she will also find another ant to look it over. At some point a decision is made and all the colony is moved.

\*Ants are so good at solving problems that businesses are using computer programs based on ant problem solving skills. These computer programs help businesses create the most efficient routes for delivering products. These computer programs are called an ACO or ant colony operation.

\*ACO is even being used to figure out the best way to send satellites farther into space by using other planet's gravitation pull to create thrust enabling the satellite to go father with less fuel.

Most of the information listed here came from a documentary called "Planet Ant- Life Inside The Colony" which we found on YouTube.com. Check out this documentary for more God's creation facts about ants and a better description of how ants are leading the way in space.

*Kristi Cruise*



"...how ants are leading the way in space."



## Easter Cantata

Our Church family celebrated the resurrection of our Lord on April 4. As I watched the choir sing I was struck by the joy on their faces. Most notably on two young ladies, Kate and Niki Binondo, not only did they sing with joy in the music but in the message they presented. They also created a tone of reverence in their rendition of “The Old Rugged Cross” played on their violins.

The joy and love on Michael Lemos’s face as he played Jesus coming from the grave was contagious. After Michael played his part in the resurrection story, he sat on the front row of the church still in costume. I was stuck by that. Jesus did not just disappear after His resurrection, He was with the people in person frequently for 40 days. He was still a part of their worship and their daily lives. He still is today!

Leanne with her drama team created a atmosphere that required you to look at your relationship to Jesus today. Do you love Him? He loves you. Do you choose to get to know Him more every day? Don’t let Easter be the only day you think about what Jesus has done for you. Make this year the year you think about Jesus in your life everyday! The most important question you must answer is, “Is Jesus who He said He was and is?” Study your Bible and find out.



“Don’t let Easter be the only day you think about what Jesus has done for you. “

## Wedding Reception

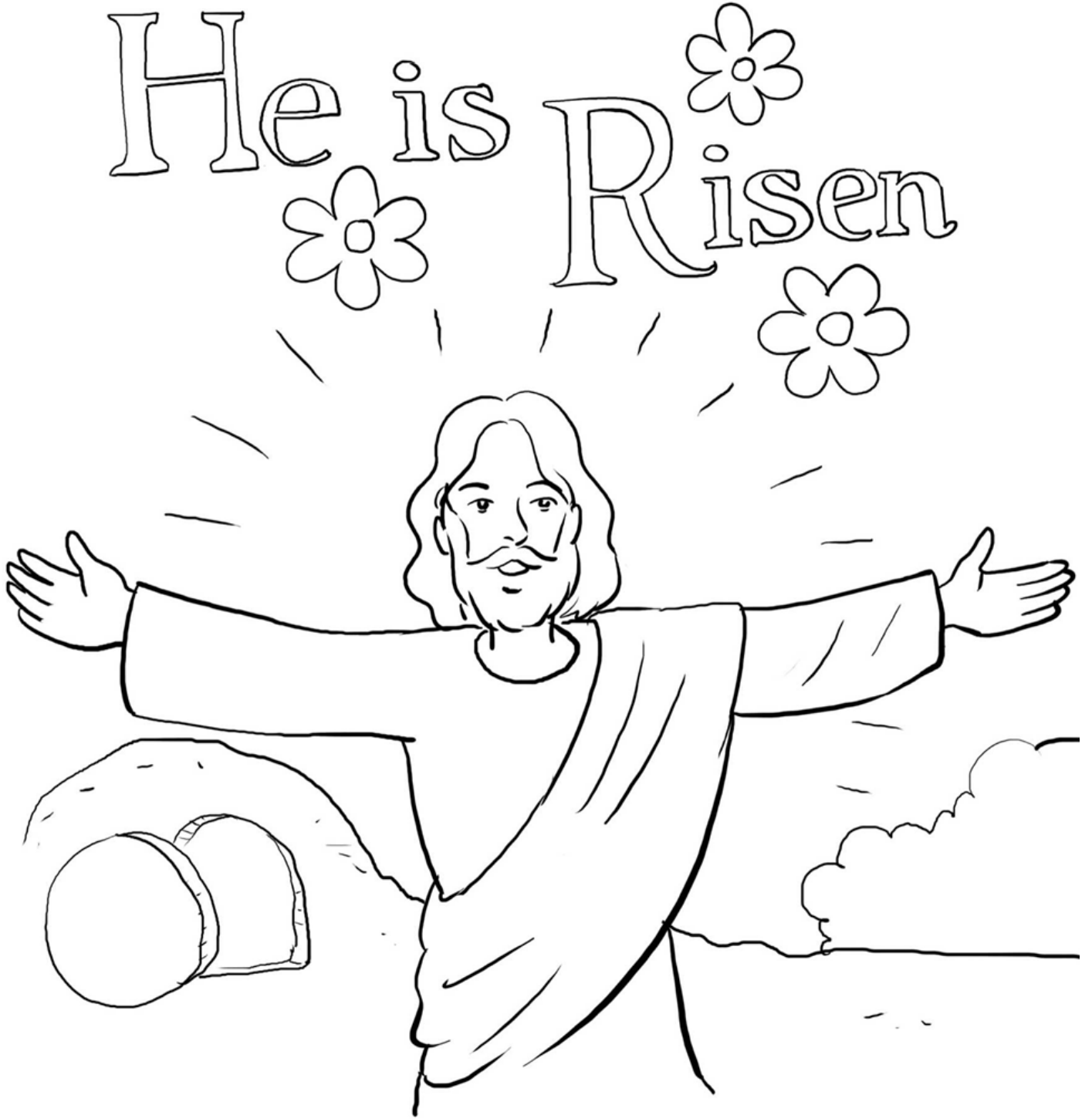
Netanya and Henry were married on March 22. It has been a joy to watch their love bloom and grow. They shared their happiness with their church family at a lovely and musical wedding reception on April 18. May God bless them as they work and grow in Christ as a couple.



Coloring Page

BibleFunFactory.com

He is Risen



**Colton Seventh-day  
Adventist Church**

Mailing Address

880 W. Laurel Street  
Colton, CA 92324

Street Address

1291 Rancho Avenue  
Colton, CA 92324

Phone: 909-825-9344



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## Distribution Dates

June 27  
August 29  
October 31  
December 26

If you would like to contribute please submit at least 7 days in advance of distribution date. Please send via e-mail at [jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net) or call or send a text to (909) 936-0005

# Contributors Needed!!

Have you noticed how blessed we are to have an active church? We have many fun, educational, inspiring and fulfilling ministries at this church! As much as I try to attend each event, it is impossible for me to attend them all. I need your help. Each ministry is important and loved and these ministries deserve to be represented in the pages of our church newsletter, but this will only happen if you help make it happen. Please write articles and take pictures and then remember to send them to me via email at [jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrkljccruise@sbcglobal.net) or text message to (909) 936-0005.

*Kristi Cruise*