

Chronicles

VOLUME 92 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2010

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O LORD
of hosts, HAPPY
is everyone who trusts in
 YOU.



PSALM 84:12

“Later”


Later
 after the angels,
 after the stable,
 after the Child,
 they went back ...
 as we always must,
 back to the world that doesn't understand
 our talk of angels and stars
 and especially not the Child
 We go back complaining that it doesn't last.
 They went back singing praises to God!
 We do have to go back,
 but we can still sing the alleluias!

— by Ann Weems



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Chronicles' Staff

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Jodi Smith	Jeff Beeson
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Deadline for February Chronicles — January 22, 2010

FINANCIAL PEACE

Your Church has a great program to counsel families with practical principles on spending, saving, giving, and managing debt. You're invited to join the Sunday evening "Financial Peace University," in January, a Dave Ramsey course. An orientation session will take place on January 10, 6 p.m. with the 13-session class beginning January 24. Cost for the class resources is \$98. Please contact the Church for further information!

Financial Peace University Answers Questions!

"Almost every class helped us to look at our finances in a totally different way. It answered questions that we had in the past but were probably too embarrassed to ask. For the first time in 15 years of marriage, we are on the exact same page with our finances. This class has truly been a blessing to our marriage and our family."

Angie Palmer Muscatine, IA

Financial Peace University Is an Investment!

"I can truly say Financial Peace University was one of the best investments I ever made with my time and money. During this past year, I became debt-free except for my house."

Anita Clark Olathe, KS

Financial Peace University Gives Hope!

"After taking the class, we now have hope. During the 13 weeks, we had people in our class saving \$1,000 for the first time. We had people become debt-free. One marriage was mended."

Don and Linda Lesovsky Lakewood, CO

SERMON SERIES AND BOOK STUDY

Pastor Kevin will be preaching a sermon series in January, "Is God Good?" relating to evil and tragedies and the presence of God.

THE SHACK

As part of the series, Pastor Kevin will lead a 5-week study of the popular book, "*The Shack*" Sunday evenings, which began January 10, 6 p.m. in the Church Conference Room. Purchase your book at your local store and plan to join the discussion group. "*The Shack*" is a fictional story of a man wrestling with over the death of his daughter who was murdered, in the story, four years previous. We find in the story our own pain and questions arising, making it a good background from which to stir our own conversation. All are welcome!

SHARING OUR SYMPATHY

- We share in the grief of friends who have lost loved ones, remembering Shannon Jolly and her family in the passing of her father, **Lelen Blake**
- ...and Helen Ruble and her family in the loss of her brother-in-law, **Robert Cross**.

PORTABLE DEFIBRILLATOR

Friends from Church have investigated the value of having a portable defibrillator at the Church for emergency use, for unexpected cardiac arrest.

According to the American Heart Association, about 325,000 deaths occur each year as a result of sudden cardiac arrest. The chances of survival increase from about 5% to more than 70% if an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is used within three to five minutes of collapse.

Cost for the AED is \$1,802 (plus \$120 for wall mount). The Church is able to receive individual donations from interested contributors in order to secure the purchase of an AED at the Church.

ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday, January 24, after 10:45 a.m. Worship we will celebrate our annual birthday party/luncheon for everyone in the Church. Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy a fun time of celebration. There will be a table for each month of the year with decorations and a cake appropriate for that month. If you would like to decorate a table, bake a cake, or have any questions, please contact Gina Starkey, 304.489.2234.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the care package you sent me. I greatly appreciate all the hard work put into preparing this wonderful gift. It was a pleasant surprise for me, and provided a much needed distraction from all of the stress brought about by final exams. Thanks again for the thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Tyler Moore



SCOUTS

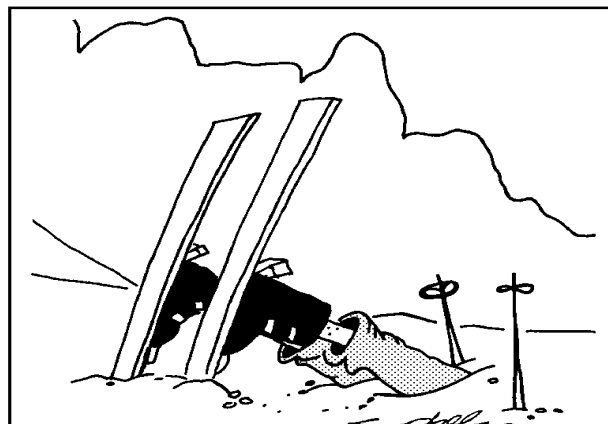
Both the Pack and Troop are gearing up for another year. This year is special in that we celebrate 100 years of Scouting. Cub scouts will start the year off with racing at both the district and council level. Pinewood Derby time is here again and is always exciting. Council races will be Feb. 6th. Come see our Scouts at the mall.

Feb. 26th will be a special day for our boys as well. The Blue Gold banquet honors the achievements of our boys as well as marking the passage of a few of the second year Webelos into the Troop.

The Troop is packing their bags for some adventures as hockey trips, monster trucks and ski slopes call their names this winter to keep life exciting.

REMEMBERING CARRIE

Friends and members of the Church and community can relate to Carrie Fitzwater at her e-mail: cfitzwater1@yahoo.com while she is away, and she will also have "blog" information at Cfitzwater1.wordpress.com for those who want to follow Carrie into the blogosphere!



Pastor Kevin begins to consider seriously the suggestion to hire a Youth Director.



One child One hour One church One school

www.kidshopeusa.org

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January 1, 2010

Dear KIDS HOPE USA Program,

Charles Schulz once said, “No problem is too big to run away from.” Clever wisdom for Charlie Brown, for sure. But challenges need solutions; ignoring or fleeing them rarely helps anyone.

Every community in America faces significant challenges—large problems they can’t, and shouldn’t (sorry Charlie), run away from. This reality provides significant opportunities for local churches to engage their neighbors. Congratulations; your church, your KIDS HOPE USA Mentors, and your Prayer Partners work hard to solve a troubling issue, not run away from one.

And your community loves you for it.

Poverty, unstable families, and a host of other social and emotional issues make it very difficult for some children to learn. What these children need is an I-believe-in-you relationship with a caring adult. By coming to the school to see that child—and only that child—one hour each week, a mentor affirms the child's value, gives the child the confidence to try, and invites him to dream. Add in a prayer partner’s appeals to heaven on behalf of that child, and it’s easy to picture how real lives change through your program.

Hope College’s Frost Research Center compiled data that showed 99.3 percent of KIDS HOPE USA children benefited in academics, behavior, attitude, and motivation to learn. This shows the measurable impact your church makes. But there’s so much more change taking place. How do you quantify the difference made in the hearts of kids and families? The hearts of the school staff who see your work? Hearts throughout your community? And the hearts of your mentors and prayer partners, too?

Charles Schulz also shared these words: “A whole stack of memories never equal one little hope.”

Unfortunately, swelling numbers of at-risk kids today—unlikely to attend any church—experience a childhood that provides them with unthinkable and undesirable stack of memories. Through the life-changing work of your KIDS HOPE USA program, your church is taking action and providing *the* solution: God’s love and hope.

Yes, your community loves you for it. And you can feel confident that you make your heavenly Father proud, too.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

David Staal

President, KIDS HOPE USA

Help Ease God's Longsuffering This Year

By Jeff Beeson

Longsuffering is not a word that we use much in the 21st century. The Merriam Webster definition of it is simply: patiently enduring lasting offense or hardship. I think in this day and age it is still an appropriate word for many people. Job losses, addictions, health and family issues, anxiety, etc. causes many people, many families to endure long periods of hardship. Yet this word is not only very descriptive of our society today, it is also very descriptive of God.

Some 6000 years ago God created all of creation, the heavens, the earth, all living creatures and the human race. Into man he breathed His own breathe to grant us life. With a love that we cannot begin to comprehend He gave us free will, a choice to make whether to serve him or Satan. Some 2000 years ago the Father sent his Son to redeem mankind, to save us from our sins. He also sent his Spirit to live in believers to help us to live closer to him. We have in the vast majority of times, failed to live according to his will, we have been an offense to him. And yet God remains longsuffering with us to this day.

2 Peter 3:9, 14-15 *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance... Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the **longsuffering** of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,” NKJV*

We are inept most of the time as Christians. Our behavior does not mirror Jesus; instead we tend to mirror the world's behavior in most aspects of our life. We fuss, argue, get angry, and threaten when others do not do what we ask or act in ways that are opposed to our belief systems. We are not very patient with others that oppose us and even at times with our family and friends.

We have ignored his desire and his plans for us to stand apart from the world. We have ignored the chance to help others and to shed light on others. We tend to be very short in being willing to be longsuffering ourselves toward those that hurt or antagonize us. And yet we count on God's longsuffering with us. We tolerate sin and find excuses for sinful behaviors.

This year, fresh off the Christmas season and remembering the gift that God gave each of us, deserving or not, let us vow to work to alleviate some of God's longsuffering as it relates to each of us. I pray that we will strive to live spotless and blameless lives for God and that we may be longsuffering with those around us. If we can do this, then we can ease some of God's longsuffering.

Amen

GREETERS SCHEDULE

January 2010

8:15 a.m.

January 3 Butch & Carol Dobson
January 10 Doug & Lori Full
January 17 Ron & Ann Mayhew
January 24 Kelly Sheppard
 Cheryl Dibacco
January 31 Jean Evans
 Nancy Miller
 Betty Jo Pryce

10:45 a.m.

Vickie Gandee & Theresa Burdette
 Richard & Dora Lea Thompson
 Mike & Robin Hudson
 John & Jodi Mendenhall
 Greg & Elaine Cappadona

WELCOME CENTER ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

Eddy & Ruth Ann Sheppard

Phil & Lori Carpenter

BREAD BAKING SCHEDULE

January 3 ~ Judy Casto

January 10 ~ Helen Wright

January 17 ~ Kelly Sheppard

January 24 ~ Rose Armstrong

January 31 ~ Joyce Jarrell-Hicks



Sunday School Classes for Everyone

A quote from the book says, *"We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road. They get run over"*.

Betty Bargeloh is teaching a class for women from the book
"The Really Bad Girls of the Bible"

The class Sunday School class that meets in
Room 104 downstairs
adjacent to the nursery
led by Mike Duckworth
is studying from the book
"Be Decisive"
based on the Old Testament Book
of Jeremiah.

There are classes for all ages and everyone is welcome.

Find a class that sounds interesting to you and join us on Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30!

