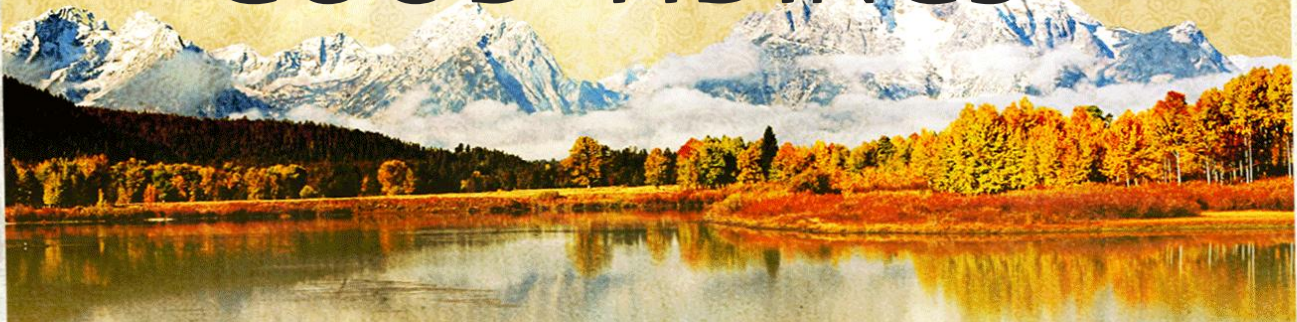


November 2013

Pioneer Bible Church

GOOD TIDINGS



Get your boxes packed, it's time for **Operation Christmas Child.**

Every year Pioneer Bible Church takes part in OCC, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse which provides shoeboxes full of small presents to needy children all over the world. This year, Carolyn Holmes stepped into the role of OCC director, replacing Cindy Dean who had faithfully served in the position for many years. (Thank you, Cindy!) Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts. "Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child," says Franklin Graham.

"Grab an old shoebox out of the closet, dust it off, then fill it with lots of fantastic kid-sized fun stuff. Bring it **Sunday, November 17th**. It's that easy!" says Carolyn.

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Mark Your Calendar

- NOV. 8-10: YOUTH RETREAT AT FORWARD BIBLE CAMP
- NOV. 11: VETERAN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 AM AT PBC
- NOV. 14: SENIOR POTLUCK 12:00 NOON AT PBC
- NOV. 25: THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY AT PBC

Pioneer Bible Church

(530) 620-4859 / www.pioneerbiblechurch.org

Thanksgiving Devotional

By Rollin Haas

Like most holidays, Thanksgiving's meaning gets lost in the haze of myth and tradition, and of "how much can I eat and still have room for 'just a little piece of all the desserts!'" If that is the way you have always thought about Thanksgiving, then have a *different* thought! Over and over throughout the Psalms, we hear David's cry "Praise the Lord o my soul, praise His holy name." Then it was said among the nations, "the Lord has done great things for them, the Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with Joy." ^{Psalm 126:2-3} Are we filled with joy and gratitude, or with greed for more?

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." "The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation." "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." "You are my God, and I will give you thanks, you are my God and I will exalt you." ^{Psalm 118:1, 14, 24, 28} "Bless the Lord, o my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, o my soul, and forget not His benefits." ^{Psalm 103:1-2}

How simply in the middle of the glitz, clamor, and distractions of life I so easily forget the Lord's blessings, great and small. How many of my prayers are taken up with requests for myself, my family and friend's health and blessings? Do I take the time to pause and listen, to bless his name, to praise him for the many benefits I already have? Why is there so little contentment in my world? The Psalms often encourage me to develop the habit of gratitude and gratefulness. The grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior are beyond measure. This Thanksgiving, let us cultivate a genuine God-centered attitude of gratitude and praise. Happy Thanksgiving!



“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

-Hebrews 11:1

Building Project Update

It has been six years since two portable buildings, once used as classrooms at Independence High School, arrived on the property. Since that time, extensive work has been done to the buildings and the grounds: a foundation was built underneath them, grading was done to insure proper drainage, roofs were repaired, concrete was poured for patios and walkways, and a deck with ramps was constructed for easy access, to name just a few of the projects tackled mainly by volunteers. Still to be done are connecting the heat pumps, completing and painting the handrails, as well as painting the interiors, replacing carpeting and putting up new acoustic tile. "We wouldn't be where we are without all of your help," says Pastor Jim to the many people who gave up their Saturdays to get the buildings ready for our youth.



At left: the buildings at their worst;

At right: the nearly completed project



Meet the Congregation: Malinda Snyder

Malinda Snyder, 20, of Somerset, has been regularly attending PBC since she was seven years old. She was born in Sacramento, and graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 2011. She has a young son named Matthew who is 17 months old.



When she is not busy taking care of Matthew, she likes to crochet, to read murder mysteries, and take candid photographs which capture her world. She has a passion for cooking, and enjoys making comfort food, like soup, mashed potatoes and meatloaf. In five years, she would like to be married and have a larger family. She would also like to have completed cosmetology school, which she hopes to start this coming January.

Malinda explains her view on life, "A friend told me, life is like a Rubik's Cube, because every move you make can be either a good move or a bad one. You might make a wrong move, but in the end, everything fits together and makes the puzzle right. I think that God shows you what you're supposed to be doing, like the guide that comes with the Rubik's Cube, but ultimately, you're the one who has to complete your own puzzle."



Operation Christmas Child, continued from page 1

First, pick up a brochure from the church lobby. Determine whether you will be providing gifts for a boy or a girl, and then select an age range. Mark the label on the back of the brochure accordingly and set it aside. Wondering what you should include in the box? Get creative! Toiletries, school supplies, toys, small clothing items (socks, for example), and candy are all popular choices. (Prohibited items include used things, breakable items, liquids & lotions, aerosol cans, perishable foods, medication or vitamins, and war toys such as guns or toy soldiers.) Once your shoebox is packed, close it securely with a rubber band, attach the label from the brochure, and remit the \$7 shipping donation in the envelope portion of your brochure. If you are packing more than one shoebox it is not necessary to use a different envelope for each \$7 contribution.

If you are unable to provide material donations, or you are looking for an additional way to take part, then know that although gift filled shoeboxes are a powerful way to introduce children to God's greatest gift, salvation through Jesus Christ, your prayers are also essential to the work of Operation Christmas Child. By logging on to www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child, you can schedule a time to pray for the ministry with other people around the world!



Where Does My Money Go?

Sunday morning, you dropped a donation into the offering box in the sanctuary. What happens next? Where does it go?

At the beginning of every week, our treasurer, Jane Fraim, opens the boxes and counts the money inside. When counting, Jane always has a partner, Janet Silva, to ensure accuracy and accountability. They must first determine whether your donation was a tithe or an offering. "Tithes" are given for the maintenance and operations of the church, and unless there is an indication the contribution was meant for another purpose, it is presumed to be a tithe. Your tithes pay for the necessary expenses such as the electric bill, or fire insurance, for example. "Offerings" are donations earmarked for a specific use, such as for the building fund or the food closet. Jane then records the information on a form, which is given to the secretary, Mellanie McCreary, to be entered into the church's computerized accounting system. By the time this form reaches the office, the names of donors have been removed, and only the total amount given by the whole congregation in each category is recorded, so that the pastors and office staff do not see *who* has contributed, or in what amounts. This is to ensure that all gifts given at PBC are from "a cheerful heart, and not under compulsion," as Paul instructs in 2 Corinthians. Jane then makes the deposit at the bank, while Mellanie assigns the correct amounts to each of several different accounts, for example, ensuring that the money raised by the sale of doughnuts on Sunday is allocated to the Mexico Outreach fund, and *all* gifts are used for their intended purpose. At PBC we strive to be the most efficient stewards possible of your donations!

Men's Fishing Retreat

At noon on Friday, October 4th, the participants in first PBC men's fishing retreat gathered at the church to pack and load into their vehicles for the long drive up to Mendocino Christian Camp (www.mendocinochristiancamp.org) It took them 5 hours of driving to reach their accommodations at the camp in Little River, where they spent the night. That evening, Rollin Haas, Keith Cunningham and William Hasper barbecued chicken in the headlights of Rollin's truck for dinner. The guys got on their Telstar chartered boat in Fort Bragg at 7:00 the next morning, and traveled two miles out into the Pacific.

They fished for about 5 hours: David McCreary caught the first salmon (15 lbs) then Bryan Bila caught the next one (13 lbs). Bruce Green caught a rockfish, which was released due to regulations. After lunch at the harbor, they returned to the camp, and took naps. For dinner, in addition to the tri-tip they had brought, they barbecued and ate Bryan's fish. Worship that evening was led by Josh and Jamin Eggert, Clayton Holmes, and William Hasper. Chuck Allen, who formerly attended PBC and is now pastor of Lighthouse Foursquare church in Fort Bragg, spoke to the men about his own spiritual journey. Sunday morning, Pastor Jim led the men in communion and worship. They left camp after lunch for the long drive home, arriving back at the church at 6:30 pm.

**David
McCreary**

**shows off
his catch**



Child Sponsorship Corner: Sukhram Kindo & the Owens Family

Jim & Linda Owens have sponsored a young man, Sukhram Kindo, through Compassion International since 2004. Sukhram, who lives in the East Indian village of Tea Garden, is now 19 years old. Throughout the region, Compassion ministers to children in rural towns and villages. The population of the region comprises a wide variety of ethnicities and cultures. The primary religion is Hinduism, although other religions are also practiced. Poverty is the primary obstacle for rural plains families. Small-scale farming is the main source of work, however unpredictable weather, fluctuating between flood and drought, often leads to crop failure and food shortages. As a result, adults often work in the many rock quarries in the area or in other menial jobs that average \$1-3 per day. For more about Sukhram (including photographs and his letters and artwork) and poverty in India, please see the child-sponsorship bulletin board across the hall from the church library!