

# Good Tidings

*December 2014*

Monthly Newsletter of Pioneer Bible Church



## Mark Your Calendar

**12.4**

Senior Luncheon & Ornament Exchange

**12.6**

Youth Group Progressive Dinner

**12.14**

Children's Christmas Musical  
Angel Tree Gift Wrapping Party

**12.21**

Adult Choir Performance  
Ladies Tea & Cookie Exchange

**12.31**

New Year's Eve Family Party

## Thanksgiving Baskets

November 24<sup>th</sup> was the date of PBC's annual Thanksgiving basket giveaway. As always, the ingredients for a complete meal (mashed potatoes, canned yams, pie ingredients, eggs, rolls, a frozen turkey, and more) are given to anyone who requests one—no questions asked.

Pastor Jim explains, "We do this as a church to give a real, live touch of care to people who have needs. We want people to feel cared for, and to know Jesus."

Local resident Rebecca Watson of Somerset appreciates the effort the church went to in serving the community. "It will affect my Thanksgiving tremendously, since we'll have something!"



## Sponsorship Matters

We would like to thank our community partners for making it possible for us to put-together 136 Thanksgiving dinners this year: the El Dorado County Food Bank, our local Boy Scout troop, Holiday Market, and Pioneer Union School District.

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

CELEBRATING  
2 DECADES OR MORE!

TOM & DONNA RUSSELL-  
45 YEARS

BOB & LINDA BOYD-  
33 YEARS

TOM & DONNA  
DECEMBER 28, 1969



When Americans think of poverty in the Caribbean, we generally think of the distress in Haiti. Often ignored is the plight of the poor in the Dominican Republic, the "other," forgotten neighbor to the east which shares the island of Hispaniola. That is an understandable response, as the Dominican Republic fares better in nearly all measures of quality of life; the literacy rate, life expectancy, and average annual income of families in the D.R. are all higher than in Haiti. Still, pockets of severe poverty are common in the D.R., and less likely to be addressed by international relief agencies.

**Compassion International** is an organization that *does not* ignore the less visible needs of the poor in the D.R. It has been active in that country since 1970, running 165 child development projects serving over 50,000 children & young adults. One of them is 13 year old **Frankeila Berroa**, sponsored by David & Mellanie McCreary.

Frankeila lives in a community which struggles with high unemployment, alcoholism, and a high percentage of single-parent families. As a teen, she attends the project an average of 4 hours a week. She receives religious instruction, vocational training, instruction on health & hygiene, and a nutritious meal each time she comes to the center.

Miguelina Ramirez, the pastor ministering to the child development center Frankeila attends, says "The most important thing for us is that they learn about Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross for all the people, and about the love that He shows through people like you."

A wonderful collection of photos of children in the D.R. is available at: [www.boredpanda.com/31-stunning-pictures-chronicling-the-everyday-life-of-children-in-the-dominican-republic](http://www.boredpanda.com/31-stunning-pictures-chronicling-the-everyday-life-of-children-in-the-dominican-republic)

To see Frankeila's pictures and letters, visit the child sponsorship bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall during the month of December.



**This Black Friday,  
save more than money.  
Save a life.**

Our church has one little 4 year old boy still waiting for a sponsor family! His name is Saimum, and he's from the majority-Muslim nation of Bangladesh.

Give a child the  
gift of hope this  
Christmas.

**Call the office  
to sponsor Saimum!**

# Operation Christmas Child



Pioneer Bible Church collected 96 shoeboxes for distribution this year. Thank you to our dedicated & hardworking OCC Coordinator, Carolyn Holmes!

## Children's Ministry Update

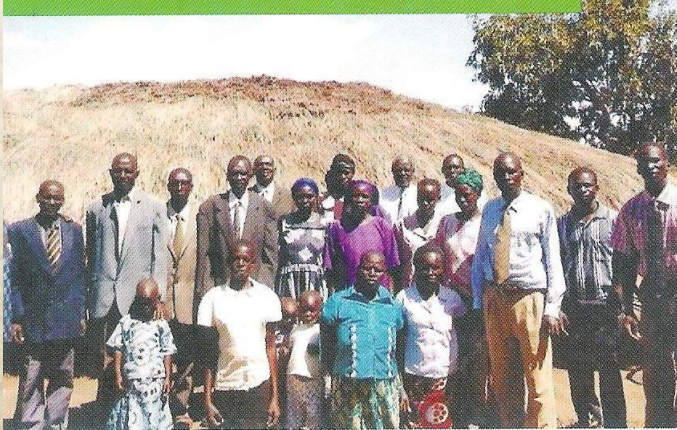
The kids of PBC are beginning to study the parables of Jesus in their Sunday morning classrooms. Please be prepared to talk to your little one about what he or she is learning.

Class schedules will be altered this month due to rehearsals for the Children's Christmas musical: Children will be dismissed and attend their Kids in Action (1<sup>st</sup> hour) classes as usual on 12/7. However Sunday school hour classes (10:00-11:00 am) will be cancelled to accommodate rehearsal on that date. There will be no children's classes on either Sunday 12/14 or Sunday 12/21. Children's ministry will return to its regular schedule 12/28.



CLUBHOUSE KIDS LEARN HOW JESUS HEALS

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**HEART OF A VILLAGE:** BELIEVERS IN KOT OMOR, UGANDA, WERE INSPIRED TO REBUILD THE VILLAGE CHURCH AS A RESULT OF SHOEBOX GIFTS FROM OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.

Pastor Okot began to see his prayers answered last year, when Operation Christmas Child handed out gift-filled shoeboxes to 200 children who gathered under that mango tree. Boys and girls from throughout the area heard the Gospel and celebrated their treasures. The next day, parents came to thank Pastor Okot. "We want to work with you," they told him. "We want to rebuild the church." The villagers brought timber and grass to build a thatched-roof church where the congregation has grown to 80 believers.

Praise God for the ways He uses Operation Christmas Child to build up His church and spread the Gospel, even in the face of persecution and terror. As Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

## A Church Built on Shoeboxes



The Lord's Resistance Army is a terrorist group in central Africa that is notorious for kidnapping children to serve as soldiers or slaves.

In the late 1990s, the LRA attacked the village of Kot Omor in northern Uganda, forcing displaced residents to spend years in a government camp.

When the villagers returned home in 2008, they found that the LRA had burned their church building. Not to be deterred, Pastor Peter Okot began holding worship services under a large mango tree with about 15 people. All the while, he prayed for the Lord to preserve peace and bring revival to Kot Omor.



## Youth Group Night Out

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the youth of PBC has a “super secret surprise Sunday” in Sacramento. What was announced as a special taping of The Price is Right turned out to be exciting night of laser-tag, arcade games, bowling, and all-you-can-eat pizza.



“It was fun getting all tactical and shooting people,” said Clayton Holmes.

“It was just awesome,” said Carolyn Holmes. “The amazing thing is one of the girls would not do it. Would NOT. She was adamant. I said just try it, and it wasn’t until the last round that she was

talked into participating. She LOVED it!”

The next 5S event is in March, so be ready for anything...

## Missionaries YOU Support: New Outreach with Old Wheelchairs

The ancient missionary Paul talked of how “I became all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” (1 Cor. 9:22) This Saturday, a Canadian missionary Paul, who has a background in engineering and works as a church planter about 35 miles NE of Tokyo, will be cleaning and refurbishing old wheelchairs along with Japanese Pastor Okita as they gather people in Sakuragawa together.

Wheelchairs of Hope  
希望の車いす  
ボランティア説明会と体験

希望の車いすというのは、日本で使われなくなった車いすを回収し、念入りにクリーニング・整備し、海外にいる車いすを必要としている人のところへ贈り届けるボランティア団体です。今まで13カ国へ1500台以上の車いすを届けたことがあって注目を集めています。11月15日にこの働きについての説明会と体験クリーニングのときを持ちたいと思いますが、ご一緒に参加しませんか。誰でも大歓迎です。

日付：11月15日  
時間：午前10:00～11:30  
場所：塚田医院、  
桜川市真壁町飯塚97-1  
参加費：無料

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つくばグレースチャペル

GRACE CHAPEL  
つくばグレースチャペル

Working new life into these old wheelchairs to serve people in need elsewhere in Asia is wonderful. But even more, Paul’s desire is that people who gather to clean these wheelchairs will have the opportunity to learn about Jesus, and that they too will someday be reborn and able to serve others.