

Good tidings

Pioneer Bible Church
January 2014



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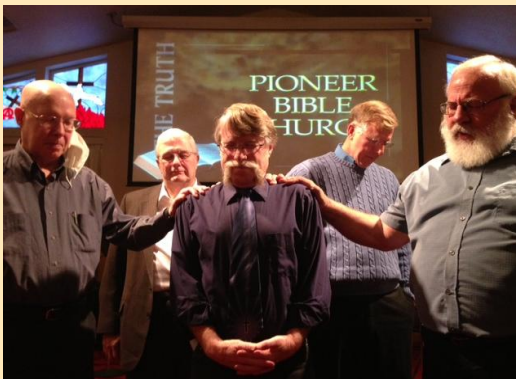
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The New Year Brings a New Elder!

PBC has a new Elder: long time member Doug Collier. Doug was confirmed at a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 1st, making him the fifth member of the board.

Doug has been active at PBC for a long time, playing an important role in our youth ministries, and reaching out to the local community through the Food Bank. He had prayerfully considered the role of elder for some time when he was approached by our pastors. "I told them, 'don't let me be a deacon, 'cause I'd give away the church,'"



Church elders,
Left to right:
Bob Mann,
Al Eberhart,
Doug Collier (center)
Pastor Jim Eggert
Pastor Rob Langford

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Becoming Real

A Guest Devotional by Jennifer Runyan

When we allow God to work in our lives, we become different than we were originally. We become better. Here is an excerpt from "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams that explains this principle in a beautiful and profound way.

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

Change occurs in our lives as we respond to God's love for us. Christ died for us because He loves us and that love is powerful. We can receive Christ's love in an instant, but like the children's story, it takes a long, long time to become all that He has planned for us. We must hang in there, and not be easily broken; we must run the race of faith knowing God is all we need. The story of the Velveteen Rabbit goes on to say that "once you are Real, you can't go back to being unreal again. It is for always." We can be sure that as we continue to walk with Christ and display His love that we have a home in heaven—and that is "for always."



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." – Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

Upcoming Events-

Mark Your Calendar!

New Year's Day- Wednesday, Jan 1st, *office closed in observation*

Senior Potluck- Thursday, Jan 2nd, 12:00 noon

Mexico Outreach Team travels to Mexico- Jan 4th-11th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Monday, Jan 20th, *office closed in observation*

God's Love For Us Women's Event- Saturday, Jan 25th, 2:00 pm

Child Sponsorship Matters

Milt and Malinda Kammerer are the proud sponsors of fourteen year old **Hismari Maradiaga Urbina** of the Faith and Hope Student Center, just east of Managua, Nicaragua. The center is located in the North Laurel Hills neighborhood, an area of approximately 17,000 residents.

Most adults in the Laurel Hills area are unemployed, but some work in factories, for wages as low as US \$51 per month. The community has electricity, phone service and public drinking water, although homes are generally poorly constructed with dirt floors. Better employment opportunities and improved housing are primary needs in the region. The mainstays of the diet there include beans, chicken, guinea pig, bread, beef, rice, and potatoes. Malaria and skin infections are common ailments.

Lack of regular school attendance is another disadvantage faced by children in the area. Sponsors like Milt and Malinda help provide these children

with medical and dental care, nutritious food, academic support, and spiritual guidance.

Hismari writes, "I'm always attending the project, and I also participated in the summer Bible school as the teacher's assistant and it was beautiful." For pictures and more information on Hismari, see the bulletin board across from the library.

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Doug jokes.

"I am genuinely blessed to have Doug on board as an Elder. He is a man with a gracious and wise manner. I look forward to working with him. I am sure that he will make significant contributions to our Elder Board's ministry," says Pastor Rob Langford.

Doug would like the church to know that "it's my heart to encourage and love the congregation; to teach, pray, & build the church up."

December 2013 marked Doug's 40th year walking with the Lord.

3 T butter or olive oil
1 large onion
1 garlic clove, minced
1 lb. ground beef
3 cups water
1 ½ cups canned tomatoes
1 green pepper
½ t celery seed
¼ t cayenne
1 t cumin seed, crushed
1 small bay leaf
1/8 t basil
1 ½ t salt

Jane Fraim's Favorite Chili Recipe

From the New York Times cookbook

1. Heat the butter in a skillet, add onion & garlic & sauté.
2. Transfer the meat mixture to a large saucepan & add remaining ingredients. Simmer, uncovered, until sauce is thick as desired, or about 3 hours. If desired, add 1 can of kidney beans before serving.
3. Garnish with chopped red onion and/or sharp cheddar cheese.

A Special “Thank You” to Holiday Market

Holiday Quality Foods, our local supermarket at the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and E-16, donated over 250 bags of groceries to our church food closet. The program, in its first year, ran throughout the month of November. Shoppers could purchase bags full of non-perishables at a price kept low by Holiday Market, which provided the food at cost.

Store manager Robert White says a food program in Somerset was chosen because it was important to the store to help local families. He tells us, “Some people would buy several bags. It was impressive how our customers supported our community like that!”

Local resident and volunteer Joan Hasson is among those who are appreciative of the food drive. “Holiday Market’s generosity will help with the food closet immensely, throughout the winter when people are in such need.”

The church food closet provides free bags of groceries on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. Recipients are welcomed into the church for a cup of coffee and a treat (sometimes a piece of cake baked by Cindy McLeran, food closet co-ordinator herself!) The contents of the bags vary throughout the year, and may include fresh local produce when in season. Donations are always welcome.

For more information on our food distribution programs, or to find out how you can help, contact Cindy McLeran through the church office. For more information on Holiday Market, please see www.shophqf.com.

In the News: OCC & the First Amendment

A secularist organization is threatening to sue public schools that take part in Operation Christmas Child (OCC), the “shoebox ministry” run by the Christian organization Samaritan’s Purse. The American Humanist Association (AHA) recently sent letters to two schools, warning them that “in order to avoid the necessity of litigation to end your unconstitutional practices,” they should immediately stop participating in the program, which has provided Christmas gifts in shoeboxes to over 100 million children in over 130 countries in the past two decades. When Samaritan’s Purse distributes the gifts, it also makes a “creative gospel presentation by local churches and ministry partners” and offers an evangelistic booklet. This is the aspect of the program that angers the Humanist organization. In their letter, the AHA went on to state “the boxes of toys are essentially a bribe, expressly used to pressure desperately poor children.... to convert to Christianity.” At least one of the two schools which received the letters has chosen to stop participating in the program to avoid legal entanglements.



Above: Shoeboxes Collected At PBC this Year



Seen Around the Church Last Month...

left: can you guess who is hiding behind the clothes closet sign?



above: the Angel Tree wrapping party;



left: the cast of the greatest Christmas musical ever!

*The winter prepares the earth for
spring, so do afflictions sanctified
prepare the soul for glory.*

-Richard Sibbes (1577-1635)

