

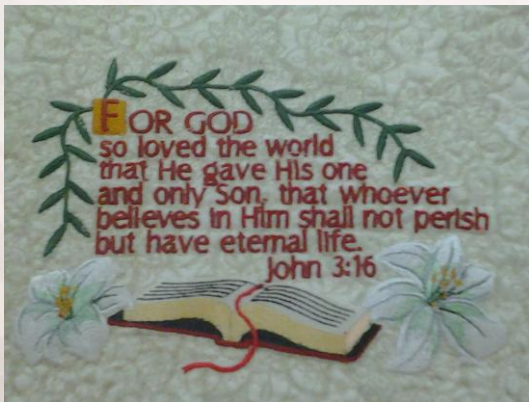


Good tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PIONEER BIBLE CHURCH
JANUARY 2015 – WWW.PIONEERBIBLECHURCH.ORG

WARMING HEARTS AND HANDS

A beautiful twelve-panel scripture quilt was made by Debby Prophet-Abney and Pat Skaggs for Sharon, wife of retired Grizzly Flats Community Church pastor Bob Wheatley.



One of the panels is shown at left.

Other machine-embroidered panels include depictions Of Matthew 28:19, John 15:5, John 17:17, and Matthew 28:20.

ARCHIVING RECORDS

There's a project going on in the church office throughout December and January—archiving! In this process, documents unique to the church such as bulletins, newsletters, programs, calendars, recipe books, financial reports, minutes of meetings, etc., are being scanned into a database. It is a big project, and is keeping the secretary & volunteers busy! If you have anything at home which you think could be of historical value (old pictures, flyers, letters, etc) please bring them in to the office. Your originals will be returned to you!

Church Events

Mexico Outreach Missions Team

The team will be in San Felipe from January 3rd through the 10th

Soups, Stews & Chili
Senior Potluck Event
January 8- 12:00 noon

Theodyyssey
Spiritual Formation
Process: Messy. Real.
Simple, but not easy.
The 4 week journey
begins January 8,
6:30 pm. Facilitator:
Jeanette Haas

Cassidy Walker stepped up in a big way at the Stand Down on Thursday, checking bags for veterans, lending a friendly smile, and manning the bullhorn to alert veterans of housing and employment workshops. I asked why she like so many others are motivated to volunteer. "As a student studying psychology at Seattle Pacific University, I've always had a heart for veterans and want to dedicate my career to researching PTSD. Representatives from The Seattle Stand Down came to speak for a forum about homeless veterans and I thought volunteering would be a great way to help serve the men and women who served our country. It was humbling to see the struggle these heroes go through every day being homeless, but it was inspiring to see the progress being made to help get them off the streets." – December 16 post on the **Seattle Stand Down** Facebook page



*Welcome to the world Charlie Joy Eggert!
Pastor Jim & WilleJune's first grandchild was
born in Modesto on December 19, 2014 at 3:11 am to
Josh & Chelsea Eggert. She weighed 6 lbs 7 oz.*



OCC UPDATE

All of the 96 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes from Pioneer Bible Church were sent to the Philippines:



This is what a shoebox distribution looks like in the Philippines (Photo courtesy of Mellanie McCreary's cousin, who took this picture at a Samaritan's Purse distribution site near Tacloban in 2013.) Look at the joy on their faces!

Devotional: *My Heavenly Parent*

By Sandra Hanson

As a mother of four I've had plenty of opportunity to parent but I rarely do I feel parented. Yesterday was an exception. Just a few days earlier I'd been repeating myself for the umpteenth time as I encouraged one to, "Be the best 'you' you can be and don't let other people's behavior sway you." Then a funny thing happened in my home. Whether my eyes were opened or it just snuck up on me, I can't be sure, but suddenly I was discontent. I had uncooperative kids! Over the years we've had assigned chores, allowance, fancy charts and incentives but what it usually comes down to is me reminding my kids to pitch in and help out. Yesterday I'd become so discontent with my family's behavior I was considering going on 'strike' and being just as uncooperative as I'd perceived them to be. My very own philosophy, the one I'd shared so many times, "Be the best 'you' you can be, regardless of other's behavior" did not return to me. I was stuck!

Then my Heavenly Parent reminded me of my philosophy by using Pastor Rob. First he reminded me of Galatians 6 - "Do not become weary in being your best you! Eventually you'll see the results of your efforts so don't miss an opportunity to be your best!" Then Rob mentioned the importance of compassion, kindness, HUMILITY (ugh!), gentleness, patience and 'bearing' with others' - none of which I'd been practicing during my self-focused grumbling fest. Next I was reminded from Romans 12 that, with a little effort, I could change my attitude, if I wanted to. By focusing on the good instead of the negative, I could renew my way of thinking and transform my attitude to one of gratitude. Rob reminded me that my spiteful desire to go 'on strike' was the same as 'revenge!' and that it is not my role to take revenge. It wasn't going to accomplish anything good. And it certainly wasn't going to model what I'd been telling my kids all these years "Don't let other's behavior sway your decision to be the best you can be."

The best thing of all is that Pastor Rob was just sharing something he'd been considering as he studied the scriptures. This was between my Heavenly Parent and me and I felt like a dearly loved child that He'd used Rob to speak directly to me. Yet, it was still hard to follow. Even with this personal pep-talk, I was convinced that I had become weary of being kind while being unappreciated. And humility does not come easily for me. But as I made the deliberate choice to prepare the dinner I had vowed NOT to fix, as I sat with the children I had decided NOT to grace with my presence, as I spent time with the ones God gave me to love, I knew I'd made the better choice to be the best I could be. For them and for me. God is so good!

Seen At PBC This Season



**Adult Choir Performance
December 21, 2014**



**Seniors Ornament Exchange
December 4, 2014**

Missionaries YOU Support: Steve & Susan Vinton of *Village Schools Intl.*

Excerpted from their recent newsletter update titled,
“As we look back over the past ten years...”

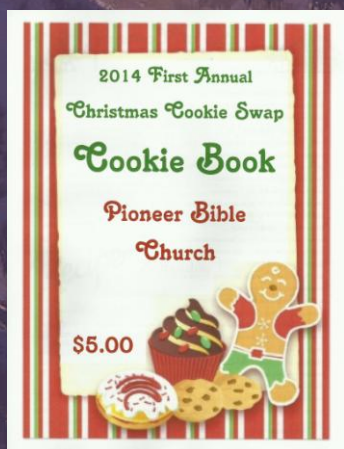
In May of 2005, I remember after we had built the first school that I wrote back to my wife Susan to tell her that while we had opened the school, I had failed to get a house built for us. She wrote back quickly to Godfrey and Emmanueli to tell them that it did not matter, that she was coming with the boys in July, whether we had a house or not to live in. I celebrate not only her willingness to sacrifice, but how her example has permeated the organization. Over the past decade, God has provided 151 short-term missionaries who have come to live in these villages. Serving in Tanzania has admittedly entailed a great deal of sacrifice on their parts, but the impact they have had on our students has been huge and the relationships they have built have been treasured. As we look back on all of those who have come, we cannot help but look to the future and to rejoice in the many open doors we have before us. We therefore ask you to continue to pray for even more workers as the harvest is indeed plentiful.

I remember when I first went to Africa sitting around the fire in some village in Congo and I asked my grandfather where all of the money came from to do everything. Ah son, you never worry about that. It's God's work and He will provide for His work. All well and good Grandpa but seriously where does all of the money come from. Listen, your grandmother and I have served all of these years and we have never lacked for a single penny to do even one thing that we felt God wanted us to do.

I remember telling that to Godfrey and Emmanueli when we started out. It might, I suppose, take less faith now after we have seen all that God has done. But the truth is that it has not mattered how many bricks these people make, God has always provided the money needed for the metal roofing. It has not mattered how many girls come to school, there has always been enough scholarship money for them. It never mattered how many of Susan's friends desperately needed the benevolence of a free bus ticket to travel to get medical help or a blanket to comfort them while getting better or to ease their final days before death, the benevolence fund has never run dry. We can truthfully say that we have never once lacked for funds. We have never had our backs against the wall. We have never felt that if only we had this we would be able to do that. It has truly been wonderful to be witnesses to all this!

Therefore we are encouraged to move forward into these coming years with big dreams. More schools in Tanzania, more schools in Malawi, the first and then, hopefully, many more schools in Zambia. The opening of our first college. More kids in all those classrooms. More missionaries to teach our students, to love them, to share the Gospel with them. Year after year, we have seen transformation in the lives of our students and their families, and then the transformation of life in these villages. As more and more educated Christian leaders take on jobs throughout these countries working in various fields from medicine to politics, as more and more of our graduates start their own businesses, build their families, serve in their churches, work faithfully at their jobs, we look with excitement to contributing to transformation in many countries in Africa.

1st Annual Cookie Swap a Delicious Success!



More than 30 ladies took part in the first annual PBC Christmas Cookie Swap on December 21st! Each participant brought 3 dozen of the same variety of home-made cookies, individually wrapped and ready to be swapped for a variety box of three dozen other cookies, made with love in their friends' kitchens. All of the recipes are available in the full size, large print, 24 page color cookie book, available in the lobby throughout the month of January for \$5.



Do you have your
copy yet?

AT RIGHT: Lara & Marj at the Swap