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Fountain of Life Fellowship Monthly Newsletter

December 2010

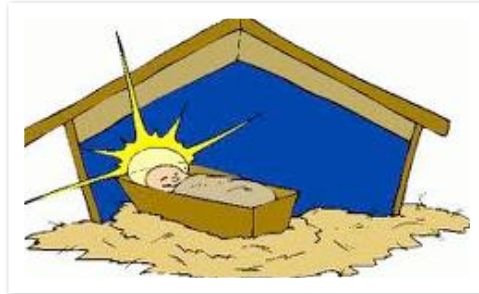
Council Members

Elders:

Matt Ford
Scott Clair
Ed Mirth
Vince Cabral

Deacons:

Irmgard Bishop
Jerry Schoenenberger
Don Woodhead
Rachel Stewart
Ronell Myburgh



*Grounded in the Gospel,
we Gather to Grow in the Gospel
and Scatter to Spread the Gospel
for the Glory of God.*

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Pastor's Note by Matt Ford

A Certain Kind of Glory

When you look at Jesus what do you see? There are so many pop-culture, urban-legend visions of Jesus out there I'll just skip them and head for what the apostle John said he saw when he looked at Jesus.

John was a middle-class Jewish man from Galilee. His family owned boats (Mt. 4.21) and had some big-city connections (John 18.15). His mom was a protective power-grabber for her boys (Mt. 20.20) and he himself was a bit of a self-righteous racist in the beginning (Luke 9.54). But he was called by Jesus to follow Jesus, and this changed him. In fact, he became perhaps Jesus' closest friend during His earthly ministry.

John the apostle is at his best when writing about Jesus. He was an eyewitness. He was called and enabled to be an apostle. His thoughts and writing on Jesus were inspired by the Holy Spirit. I don't know what you see when you look at Jesus, but we should be seeing what he saw. This is what we should be seeing:

...we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace

and truth. John 1.14

A Trick Question

Here's a question for you: did Jesus come as God? Some say "no." Many say He was only a good teacher or a fine example of love – but not God. Christians know better – He's God! But still there is confusion.

Did Jesus come as God? What I mean is, when He prayed did He look around, give a wink, and admit that He was really talking to Himself? Don't throw me out for heresy just yet, but listen to this: Jesus did not come as God.

Hear me out – I would die for the truth that Jesus is divine. All the characteristics and qualities of God, He's got 'em in full measure. But Jesus didn't so much come as God as He came as the Son of God.

That's what John said. There's a certain kind of glory here – "glory as of the only Son from the Father..." Jesus came revealing the One True God to be the One Triune God.

The Logic of Salvation

The youngest baby Christian knows they're saved by faith in life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But it is from there, as Fred Sanders puts it, that the "logic of salvation unfolds".¹ The logic goes like this:

Who must Jesus be, if he is capable of saving in this way? The answer is that he must be fully human fully divine...If Jesus is divine, then who must God be?

The answer is that He is, always has been, and always will be, gloriously Trinitarian.

A Seriously Amazing Christmas Gift

The infinite, eternal, sufficient, supreme, and happy God is triune. And He is joyful in it – the Father loves the Son. The Son loves the Father. The Spirit proceeds from them in this fellowship. Three persons, One God.

So when you see Jesus, you certainly shouldn't see another "religious teacher." But you shouldn't just see God, either. You should see the pre-existent co-eternal Son of God who has forever enjoyed fellowship with the Father and the Spirit.

The Trinity did not need to create or to save. They were just fine, thank you, being the Trinity. Yet, the Father sent the Son. As Jesus would say in John 3.16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." God who was free not to save, did so at immense cost to Himself. The truth is that we're wretched sinners deserving eternal wrath. The grace is that Jesus took it for us.

Why such a gift? The answer is incredible. It is so that you could be drawn up into the eternal, abundant life of the Trinity. That, united to the Son through faith in His cross and resurrection by the power of the Holy Spirit, the eternal Father of the Son of God could be your Father as well. Merry Christmas. The Triune God, at great cost to Himself, would like to give you Himself. He would like to share the infinite, unspeakable joy and fellowship He has enjoyed for all eternity with you for all eternity. The Father is doing this through the Son by the Spirit.

Eternal life starts now and explodes forever as we get plugged in to the life of the

This is an excellent book on the doctrine of the Trinity. I recommend that you read it. Twice.

Trinity. That's heaven. That's the glory of the Son, the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

If someone gave you the world for a present, it wouldn't be better than the Trinity.

Let's celebrate that this Christmas.

Pastor Matt

1 Sanders, Fred. The Deep Things of God. Crossway Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. 2010, page 73. This is



Thank You!

Special thanks to Marcia Ford, Ed and Tracy Mirth, and Wesley and Carolyn Swenson: These dear people poured out their time and offered their homes on a weekly basis in order to facilitate our fall Life Together Groups. Please thank them profusely and thank God for such great volunteer efforts as these.

Ignition Update

contributed by Rachel Stewart

This month we continued in Matthew 5- the Sermon on the Mount. We've examined Jesus' words on such things as divorce, lust, and the importance of keeping oaths. We are enjoying this series because of the practical application it had for the disciples at that time and how practical it still is for us today. It has been good for us to see how the Bible isn't just a collection of stories, but really is a roadmap for our lives. We are excited to be coming into the Christmas season and are especially excited to get together with our friends at Grace Church for the annual Christmas party. We feel extremely blessed to have such a strong bond with the leaders and youth at Grace and are always thankful to get to strengthen our relationships with them. Looking back on 2010 for the youth group as a whole, it's been an amazing year of growth, not only in numbers but in spiritual maturity. Praise the Lord for his never-ending provision and love for our small but mighty group!

2:42 Update

contributed by Scott Clair

This last month we to an in depth look at the Holy Spirit as we navigated our way through John 16. First we looked at the role of the Holy Spirit in our Christian witness. Through this we were reminded of the obvious, but often forgotten fact that Christian witness is to the unbelieving world. We then looked at the mission of the Holy Spirit. Once we understood that the very mission of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness to Jesus Christ, we were then able to rest in the fact that the Holy Spirit will enable us to carry out that mission, even I the midst of suffering. Last we looked at the role of the Holy Spirit in revealing God's word. As we studied this truth, we were reminded that in order for God's word to be active and living in our lives The Father must send his Holy Spirit to enable understanding. This truth is both humbling and encouraging as we are totally dependent on God for salvation.

WOW: Women of the Word

Our ladies' bible study (Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m.) has started the Gospel of John. Come enjoy this amazing book with us, and bring a friend! Any and every lady is welcome!



Out of the Salt Shaker

contributed by Julia Bailey

Listen for His Coming

We are officially in the season of the church year known as Advent. Recalling my high school and college Latin, I recognize that the word comes from two Latin words: the preposition “to” and the verb “come”.

That might strike some of you as odd, since most of what we do during the season of advent seems to be that we look back—back some 2000 years ago to the point where Jesus came to earth.

But that’s not really what advent is designed to be about. Rather, it should be a time of looking forward—we look forward to celebrating the time when Jesus was born, but we also look forward to when he comes again.

In our affluent society, it’s sometimes easy to forget that a better day is coming. We think about going to “heaven” when we die, but I suspect most of us don’t spend much time thinking about the new earth that will be created when Jesus returns.

And that is what the season is designed to do—to make us remember:

- * To remember that the Son who came as a helpless babe will return as a mighty conqueror
- * To remember that the child who was born through the birth pangs of a young woman will return to end suffering.
- * To remember that the one whose birth caused Herod to slay Jewish children out of fear that his power would be usurped will return and judge the world in truth and righteousness.

Can we even begin to imagine that world? A world with no sorrow. No fighting. No wars. No separation. No death.

For some of us Christmas is a time of sadness and we reflect on brokenness in our lives: in estrangement from family, in separation from those who preceded us in death, in fear of illness or our own impending end of life. It’s hard to remember the promises of a new earth—and perhaps even harder to believe them.

When promises are fresh, we wait expectantly. The early Christians expected Jesus’ return at any time. Two thousand years later, we are still waiting—much less expectantly.

Much of the prophecy in the Old Testament has three meanings. There was the prophecy that applied to the immediate circumstances of the children of Israel. Then there was a second level that applied to the birth of Jesus. But way back there, thousands and thousands of years ago, the prophets foretold the second coming of Jesus. When he will return, not as an infant wrapped in rags, born in a stable, but as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. To whom every knee will bow in heaven and on earth.

Will you join me this advent season in praying, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus!”

Prayer Guide

contributed by Matt Ford

Monday – Growth in the Gospel

Pray Ephesians 3.14-21

Pray that we would be individually and corporately grounded on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Pray that our Life Together Groups would be catalysts for substantial fellowship, sanctification, and practical care.

Tuesday – The Family

Pray Psalm 78.4; 112.1-2

Pray for singles in our community; pray that they would feel connected, loved and part of the church family. Pray that single parents would be filled with God's power and feel our support. Pray for the marriages of our church, that they would derive their wisdom and strength from the Gospel. Pray for the parents; that they would have the grace, wisdom, diligence and endurance to raise their children in the Gospel. Pray for the nursery, children's worship, and youth group ministries of the church. Pray for the leaders and the students involved, that God would give grace and power to transform lives.

Wednesday – The Sick and Suffering

Pray 1 Peter 1.3-9

Pray for sick and suffering in our church. Pray that God would heal physically, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. Pray that we would be enabled to cling to Him throughout the difficulties and find Christ faithful.

Thursday – Growth of the Gospel

Pray Matthew 28.18-20

Pray that we would be wise, joyful, and bold in sharing the Gospel. Pray that hearts would be opened to believe. Pray that the unsaved would be a burden in our hearts, and that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit and power towards witnessing for Christ. Pray that younger singles would continue to find a place in our community and become more and more a part of the ministry here.

Friday – BSTC (Haitian Partner Church)

Pray 2 Thessalonians 1.11-12

Pray for Pastor Abner, that he might be full of faith and wisdom and faithful in preaching the Gospel. Pray for the congregation, that they would be strengthened by and bold in the Gospel. And pray for those orphans, that they would know the deep love of their Father and grow into men and women of God who are instrumental in the transformation of Haiti.

Saturday – Sunday Worship

Pray Acts 2.29-47

Pray that God would be honored by our sincere, Gospel-centered worship. Pray the preaching of God's word would be powerful for believer and unbeliever alike. Pray that folks would come, and that the meeting would result in lives changed for the glory of God.

Angel Tree

contributed by Genesee Atkins

The Angel Tree Christmas party will take place **December 16th, from 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.** This is a special event as the FOLF family is honored to celebrate Christmas with welcomed guests – we have 20 children and their families from Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree ministry! These are kids who have a parent in prison, and we have the honor of giving them gifts and a party in order to express their parent's and God's love for them.

The evening will include dinner, games, the passing out of Angel Tree gifts, and the Gospel message. This is going to be a great night! Friends, children, teens... everyone is invited and encouraged to join us. Please bring your wrapped gift (please keep each gift to \$15-20) to the church by 12/12/10. If you are bringing a potluck dish, please arrive a few minutes early. If you would like to volunteer to help facilitate the event, let us know. If you have any questions, please see Scott or Genesee. Thank you so much for your service in Jesus' name!



Shepherd's Corner

contributed by Matt Ford

The elders met on Saturday, December 4th from 7:30a-10a. The agenda included a devotional time from Ephesians 6, discussion of Shepherd Connects, member needs, future LTG plans, and prayer for the church as a whole.

Daily Advent Readings

The Christian Reformed Church office of Social Justice has prepared a series of advent messages on the theme of Hope written by justice and development workers around the world. You can subscribe to receive them online at http://crcna.org/pages/osj_adventdevotions.cfm. You will receive a daily email with suggested scripture, meditation, and prayer.



Budget Report

contributed by Anne Buteyn

November 2010

Inflow:

General Fund (offerings, rent): \$15,589.65

Special offering:

– Benevolence - \$367.00

Outflow:

General Fund/Ministry Shares: \$14,073.76

Ministry Schedule	Dec 12, 2010	Dec 19, 2010	Dec 26, 2010	Jan 2, 2011
Nursery	Kathryn Gayle Audrey	Dorothy Julie Q. Niel	Laura Sally Samantha	Marcia Debrah Veronica
Children's Worship	Lynn Jacky	Lynn Frances	Lynn John B.	Cinti Genesee
Hospitality	Vera & Carolyn (DEC) Tracey & Ed (JAN)			
Scripture Reading	Ed	Scott	Heather L.	Cinti
Congregational Prayer	Heather L.	Todd	Vera	Heather L.
Sanctuary Care	Rachel	Mira	Cinti	Scott

Birthdays

12.4	Leyla Szilagyi
12.16	Ingrid Allen
12.19	Troy Atkins
12.19	Heather Lenahan
12.19	Janna Middel
12.20	Kylie Powers

Anniversaries

12.21	John & Kathryn Boogaard
12.28	Roy & Genesee Atkins

Daughters of the King: If you are a woman, you are invited to join us for our annual Christmas party on **December 19th at 5:00pm**. We will have our annual ornament exchange, feast on goodies, and spend an evening looking at God's promises for a savior.

Bring a wrapped ornament if you would like to participate in the ornament exchange (\$10 max), and if you like, a goodie to share. Most importantly, bring yourself.

Daughters of the King is a fellowship of women from 18 to 102+ who meet to study God's word, play together and learn about each other. We meet from 5-7 PM in the youth room. Visitors are always welcome! Invite a friend to come with you!

Andrizomai: Our next breakfast is Saturday, December 11th, 7 a.m. at Carrows (Magnolia, between Heil and Warner). Join us as we enjoy one another's company and continue our study in the Gospel according to Mark. We'll be giving our attention to Mark 6.14-29.

Care for our Shut-Ins

Below is a list of friends & family of FOLF that would appreciate a call, a card, a visit, and prayer.

Please contact Rachel (Rachel@folfcrc.com) for phone numbers and addresses of those we care for.

Joe Bakkelo has moved back into his home in Victorville. He would appreciate calls and cards.

Hetty De Jonge is still recovering. We give thanks to God for healing! Hetty still loves to have visitors and cards, and enjoys fresh flowers from your garden.

Russ Hanff is in an assisted living home in Whittier. Russ suffers from Alzheimer's; while forgetful, he really enjoys visits and cards (he has no phone). He LOVES to talk about the Angels, and his years of coaching Little League and softball. He recently was able to take a trip to Alaska.

June Verhoeven live at the Artesia Christian Home in Artesia. June cannot walk due to a stroke that she suffered a few months ago. She would love to receive cards and visits. She also enjoy home-cooked food and fresh fruit.

Rosalie would appreciate some visitors from the FOLF family. If you are interested in visiting,, please contact Irmgard for information.

Brian McGuire is a former member of our church. He lives in Fullerton with his son, Kyle. Brian suffers from advanced effects of diabetes. He would love a call or a card