

INTOUCH

November 29, 2009

Where God Is

by Stuart McAllister

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 29

12:30 PM S.A.I.N.T.S. ALIVE! LUNCHEON Fellowship Hall
 With guests Kay Cook and the CBC Sanctuary Bells
 4:00 PM New Song Choir/ Campanitas Bells 206, 207
 5:00 PM Carol Choir/ Bell Canto Bells/CBC Ringers 206, 207, 208
 6:00 PM Sanctuary Bells (Adults) 208
 6:00 PM Sunday Evening Prayer Library

MONDAY – NOVEMBER 30 (All week – Angel Tree Gifts dropped off) Office

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Turbo Blast" Fellowship Hall
 5-8:30 PM EXCEL Serving at Neighborhood Ministries meet at CBC
 7:00 PM Community Bible Study – not meeting this week only

TUESDAY – DECEMBER 1

7:00 AM Teleios Women's Prayer/Study: Isaiah 40:1-14 Library
 9:15 AM Teleios: "Say Goodbye to Whining..." 206
 6:45 PM Teleios: GriefShare Seminar/Support Group Library

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 2

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "That's A Stretch" Fellowship Hall
 5:30 PM Elder Prayer Library
 6:45 PM LOGOS Kids Club Classrooms
 6:45 PM EXCEL Student Ministry (Jr. High & High School) F. Hall
 6:45 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
 6:45 PM Teleios: "Say Goodbye to Whining..." Library

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 3

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Cirque Du Soleil" Fellowship Hall
 6:30 PM College & 20-Somethings Ministry (dinner/study) Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY – DECEMBER 4

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – "Dance It Off" Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 5

9-12 Noon Annual Grapefruit Picking The Vucurevich's home
 Breakfast & Lunch served as we pick to provide Christmas fruit for Native Americans
 10:30-12:30 WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH Sanctuary & F. Hall
 Speaker: Lesli Savage
 "At Peace"
 "My peace I give to you." John 14:27
 3:30-6:30 Sanctuary Choir Dress Rehearsal Sanctuary

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 6 *Second Sunday of Advent*

9:00 and 10:40 AM MORNING WORSHIP Sanctuary
 Dr. Tim Savage

STEPPING STONES TO ADVENT "Esther: Triumph of Courage"

9:00 AM Nursery (birth – 23 months) 301-304
 9:00 AM Children's Discipleship (24 mo – gr. 3) 101-104, 201, 203
 9:00 AM Adult Fellowships 208, 209
 9:00 AM Nursery (ages 0 – 3 yrs) Parents Meeting 207
 9:00 AM Discovery 1 – meant especially for newcomers! Library
 10:40 AM Nursery (birth – 23 months) 301-304
 10:40 AM Children's Church (24 mo – 3 years) 101-104
 10:40 AM Children's Church (4 years – grade 3) 201, 203
 10:40 AM EXCEL (Jr. High & High School) Fellowship Hall
 10:40 AM Nursery (ages 0 – 3 yrs) Parents Meeting 207
 3:00 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT Sanctuary

Sacred Baroque Masterworks

Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Handel's *Messiah (Part I)*
 with Southwestern College Chorale and Orchestra

5:00 PM Bell Canto/CBC Ringers 207, 208
 6:00 PM Sanctuary Bells (Adults) 208

In a certain town there lived a cobbler, Martin Avdeitch by name. He lived in a small basement room whose one window looked out onto the street, and all he could see were the feet of people passing by. But since there was hardly a pair of boots that had not been in his hands at one time for repair, Martin recognized each person by his shoes. Day after day, he would work in his shop watching boots pass by. One day he found himself consumed with the hope of a dream that he would find the Lord's feet outside his window. Instead, he found a lingering pair of worn boots belonging to an old soldier. Though at first disappointed, Martin realized the old man might be hungry and invited him inside to a warm fire and some tea. He had other visitors that evening, and though sadly none were Christ, he let them in also. Sitting down at the end of day, Martin heard a voice whisper his name as he read the words: "I was hungry and you gave me meat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. Inasmuch as you did for the least of these, you did unto me." (1)

Every Christmas, our family reads the story of Martin the Cobbler as an aid to our celebration. Tolstoy's words offer something of a creative attempt to capture the wonder of a God who comes near and helps us picture the gift of Christ among us in accessible terms. Notably, the story was originally titled, "Where God Is, Love Is."

The Christian story that informs the Christian calendar gives its followers time and opportunity to remember the coming of Christ in a specific context – in Bethlehem, in the Nativity, in the first Christmas. But it also presents us with repeated opportunities and reminders to prepare for the coming of Christ again. Like Martin eagerly waiting at the window, the Christian worldview is one that asks of every day of every year: How will Christ come near today? Will I wait for him? Am I ready for him? Am I expecting to find him?

We are reminded to keep watch, to be prepared, and to continually ready our hearts and minds for the one who is already near. At the same time, the Christian story would also have us to remember how unexpectedly Christ at times appears—as a baby in Bethlehem, a man on a cross, as a woman in need.

In the book of Titus, we read that "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." How and where will it show up this week? In order to stay alert to the rich possibilities, perhaps we need to keep before us the radical thought of all that God has offered us: a Christ child who comes down to us, a redeemer willing to die for us, a God willing to redefine what is near—all so that we might be where God is. Christianity is not an escape system for us to avoid reality, live above it, or be able to redefine it. Christianity is a way that leads us to grasp what reality is and, by God's grace and help, to navigate through it to our eternal home in God's presence.

The story God has given us indeed feeds the hungry, takes in the stranger, and orients the resident alien who is ever-looking homeward. The focus of Christ's coming is the message of Immanuel—God is with us. The focus of Christ's earthly ministry is the declaration of the cross—God is for us. And the focus of Christ's resurrection is the promise of a future and his imminent return—God will bring us safely home. Until then, God knows all, God is above all, and God is among us, even when it seems most unlikely.

Stuart McAllister is vice president of training and special projects at Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) in Atlanta, Georgia. This article is "Slice 2060," October 29, 2009, of the daily devotional email ministry of RZIM, *A Slice of Infinity*. To subscribe free of charge go to www.RZIM.org/USA/Resources/Read/ASliceofInfinity/SliceSignup.aspx.

(1) Story told in Leo Tolstoy's *Walk in the Light While There Is Light* and *Twenty-Three Tales*.

Next Sunday

CBC Sanctuary Choir Christmas Concert

3:00 PM

*Celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with two of history's most beloved sacred works for chorus, orchestra and soloists as our Sanctuary Choir is joined by the Southwestern College Chorale, and orchestra, to sing Handel's **MESSIAH, Part 1**, and our choir sings Vivaldi's **GLORIA**. These Christ-centered musical offerings provide the perfect setting in which to include others in your Christ-centered celebration, and, perhaps, give opportunity to invite them to our Advent services and Christmas Eve Service.*

PROJECT ANGEL TREE is our opportunity to give Christmas gifts to children of parents in prison. Look for our Christmas Tree with angel tags in the narthex, today. **Gifts are due back this week, by December 6th** (narthex table or office through the week). Other ways to get involved include buying Fry's grocery gift cards, providing postage stamps, providing Christmas cards, delivering gifts, and attending a party for these children on Thursday, December 17th. If you would like to participate, please call Winkie Schwartz at 602-290-3672 or email Kai at kai.schwartz@hotmail.com.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROJECT – This year we are once again partnering with Neighborhood Ministries to collect NEW jackets for children in need. Our goal is to collect **75 brand new jackets**. To participate, please find the Wardrobe Rack that is located outside the classrooms on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Grab a coat hanger from the rack with attached tag and follow the instructions on the tag. Bring your jacket back on the hanger and hang it up on the Wardrobe Rack. **Final donation day is this Wednesday, December 2.** Thank you!

CBC FAMILIES: SERVE TOGETHER THIS CHRISTMAS! Thursday and Friday, December 3 and 4 at Neighborhood Ministries (1913 W. Van Buren). Come help set up the "Christmas Parent Store." This store, for the neighborhood parents who volunteer and serve with Neighborhood Ministries all year, provides a time and place for them to purchase Christmas gifts for their children through the service points they have earned. You are invited to choose a time period between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM either or both of these two days (be it an hour or two or more) to assist with pricing store items. Contact Pencie Culiver @ penciec@aol.com or 480-298-4374 to arrange a time to help out. Don't go without calling first! **THANK YOU!**

CHRISTMAS EVE NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED. During our Christmas Eve service (Thursday evening, December 24th, 6:00 PM) we want to provide a place where parents, especially visitors, feel secure about leaving their children. The nursery not only needs to provide a safe, secure and fun place for the children, it needs to stimulate our spirit to serve God by serving the people Jesus wanted around Him, our children. These children are a blessing not only to their parents, but to all who serve them. Consider signing up as a family or small group! Please contact Carmen Benford, no later than Friday, December 18th, at 480-831-5059 or cbenford4@cox.net if you would like to serve (5:30 to 7:30 PM). Thank you!

CHRISTMAS COOKIES! A highlight of last year's Ladies Christmas Brunch was the delicious selection of Christmas cookies homemade by our CBC ladies. If you would like to contribute your favorite Christmas cookies (23- dozen), let us know when you buy your tickets, or email Marlene Delnoce at MCJRP@aol.com. Please plan to deliver your cookies to the Church kitchen on Friday, December 4th.

Come to the Brunch and Be Encouraged

Ladies, there is still time to get tickets for the **Christmas Brunch** on Saturday, **December 5th at 10:30 AM**. Lesli Savage's talk, "At Peace," will be an encouragement to you and your guests. Stop by the church office during regular business hours up until the day of the Brunch for tickets; ticket price \$5. Brunch will be served buffet style, with reserved seating available for those who need it. Come prepared to do some Christmas shopping this year. Questions? Call Nancy Whalen at 602-677-5263 or email ncwhalen@cox.net.

PRAYING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION Monthly Prayers for our Children

December's Theme: *Serving*

Father, grant our children the mind of Christ who came not to be served but to give His life in service. May our children find more joy in serving others than in being served. Prosper their service for the sake of Christ, and use it to promote Your kingdom far and wide.

2 Cor. 4:5, Mark 10:43-45, Gal. 5:13, Phil. 2:5-8.

OUR ANNUAL GRAPEFRUIT PICKING at the Vucurevich home, 3637 East Colter scheduled for Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The grapefruit that our picked will be used as Christmas gifts to American Indian families in northern Arizona. All are welcome – **husbands and children of women attending the Women's Brunch, be sure to come!** The more hands on hand, the more grapefruit gets picked. If you have a friend that would enjoy this fun outdoor project, invite them. Bring your appetite – breakfast and lunch will be served.

CHRISTMAS AT OSBORN HEALTH AND REHAB: Gift bags with hygiene items are being prepared as Christmas gifts for the 70+ residents of this facility (the focus of our CBC Nursing Home Ministry) to let them know how much we love them. We encourage the body of CBC to get behind this effort with the gifts that are suggested. Normal-sized items are preferred (as opposed to travel or super-sized), something the residents can enjoy for a period of time. Donations bins are located near the Welcome Center, near Fellowship Hall, and on the north side of the sanctuary through December 6th. **Please bring: baby powder, soap, hand lotion, comb or brush, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrush, washcloth, cotton tube socks, lap blanket.**

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY and carol through the hallways of Osborn Health and Rehab (3333 N. Civic Center Dr. Scottsdale) on Thursday, December 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The residents love to hear cheerful singing voices! For many, this is the highlight of the year. We'll deliver gift bags to the residents and conclude the caroling with a Christmas Party (food only, no gifts) for the staff from 7:30 to 8:00 PM, letting them know how much we appreciate their work with the residents. Homemade chili, cornbread and hot apple cider will be provided for everyone. If you'd like to make cookies and treats for the staff, please contact David Haneke at dhaneke@openingmoments.com or Doug White at ashpenaz@cox.net.

LOGOS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY, Wednesday, December 16, 6:45-8:15 PM in Fellowship Hall. All Clubbers and their families are invited to join us for this wonderful celebration of Christ's birth. We will have a dramatic Christmas presentation featuring some of our own clubbers, Christmas carol singing and yummy dessert. This is a great night to invite friends and extended family. **Donations Needed:** We would appreciate Christmas cookie donations for this event. If you would like to donate cookies please bring them to the church office during the week or on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES – PAMPER NIGHT! Monday, December 7, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. "Healing Journey's," one of the ministries at Neighborhood Ministries, is planning a "pamper night" for women. We need to gather some women who could donate a few hours of their time doing hair, nails, massages, etc. We are trying to be Christ to these young women who already have had to endure much hardship and have overcome so much. It's been such an honor to be a part of their lives and we count them as our true friends. If you would like to be a part of this well-deserved "pamper night," please contact Manuela Sheehan at 602-370-4128 or Susan Leon at 602-538-5451.

BUDGET COACH: Has the downturn in the economy produced stress in your finances? Is there too much month at the end of the money? Camelback Bible Church has a trained budget coach from Crown Financial Ministries who is willing and able to assist you with your financial questions and to help you along your "Journey to Financial Freedom." There is no charge for the coaching. Please contact Sandra Cook, our Crown Budget Coach, at 480-229-9784 to get started.

CBC GIVING UPDATE

Fourth Quarter (Oct.-Dec.) Giving Need	\$ 795,679
Fourth Quarter Giving to Date	\$ 207,259
Remaining Need	\$ 588,420
Last Week's Giving	\$ 18,375