

## Pastor's Newsletter – December 25, 2009

Dear GGrove Saint!

Merry Christmas to you and your family! We have had two days away this week, spending some time with our sons during the break, though the Christmas sermon is never very far away! We hope that you have had a special time with your family!

The only major announcement for this weekend is the special service we have planned for Christmas Sabbath:

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:** We are celebrating the wonderful diversity of our church tomorrow by having a grand procession of all the flags representing where everyone is from. Many will be wearing some traditional clothes! The sermon finishes our Advent series, “FOR ALL THE PEOPLE”, from Luke 2:11.

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** There will then be an International Dinner in the Fellowship Hall, with a great mixture of food from all over the world, the best everyone can bring from their culture. I'm sure there will be plenty of traditional American food from the rest of us if you are not very adventurous, but why not risk a little?! We will be surrounded by flags and music, and it should be a memorable Christmas Sabbath.

But that's not all! Many of you have heard that my father was a pastor, but that before he was a pastor he was an actor as a boy living in Hollywood, and was actually part of the OUR GANG / LITTLE RASCALS movies for several years! Only at 15 did his minister/grandfather's letters lead him back to Christ, to getting baptized, and eventually into ministry and missionary service. My brother David has finished a lifetime dream of writing the true story of my father's connection with the Little Rascals in a book called “FINDING WALDO,” which has just come out.

Our family's gift to our new church family is to give each family a gift copy of this new book tomorrow—but you have to be there tomorrow to get it! We will also show a 10-minute clip of one of the shows where he was featured, but not until after the worship service is over, for those who would like to stay by and see it. My brother will be there to sign any books people would like him to sign, and my mother is going to be there also.

Besides the usual treats available after church, I talked my mother into making a duplicate of all the goodies she has on the table when we walk into our Christmas dinner (tomorrow night this year!), so go by her table and get one of her famous pieces of carob candy, fruit chews, and Rice Krispy bars! First come first served!

**CHURCH BUDGET:** \$4000 more came in last Sabbath, so we are up to \$15,000 of the \$34,000 we need. May God bless you as you give your very best to set our church up for some incredible plans the committees are planning for 2010 to take our church to a totally new and higher level! All donations need to be postmarked by December 31 to count for 2009.

We know not everyone is in town this week, but we know others will come into town to be with their family here, so we hope for a full church for this holiday Sabbath. God bless you all!

Pastor Dan