



# *The Vision*

A Newsletter of . . . The Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

Vol. 7 No. 12

"Lifting Up Christ . . . Building Up People" December, 2006

## *Choose the Best Christmas Gift*

Dear Church Family,



The Christmas season is again upon us with its conflicting voices oscillating between "Here Comes Santa Clause" and "O Holy Night." As this newsletter goes to press we are being bombarded with commercials urging us to spend our money on items we can ill afford. Our mail bulges with catalogues and ads tweaking our consciences and urging us to remember our friends and loved ones with special "I-care-for-you" gifts. A few days ago I received a catalogue in the mail offering me the privilege of purchasing one watch for \$160,000 or another

one for \$124,000 for that very special person..

Let us remind ourselves that this Christmas season we can choose to focus on the birth of our Savior and the profound truth that "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself."

This season we can choose to hear the angels singing above the cacophony of Christmas as usual in America.

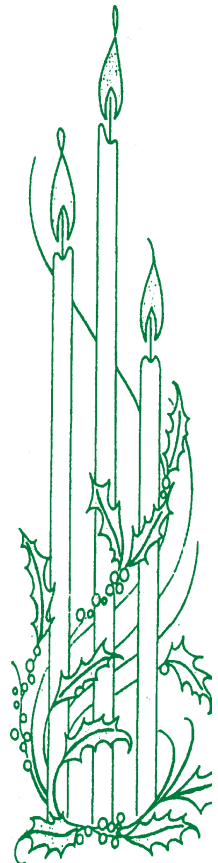
Of course we can enter into the spirit of Christmas by giving gifts mindful that every gift we give or receive is rooted in grace and can be a metaphor for God's gift to us of His son. Of course we can enjoy our families and loved ones at this time in special and serendipitous ways.

Our prayer for you as a church staff is that, with the shepherds of old who "kept watch over their flocks by night, you hear the angels sing as you tend your flocks and manage your affairs. Our prayer for you is that this festive time of year provide you with the opportunity to be renewed spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally and socially.

We wish for you a Christmas replete with every blessing and a renewed sense that as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, that we are one year closer to His second coming, without which His first coming would be for naught.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rudy Torres for the Church Staff



## *Baptism A Family Affair!*

On Friday evening, November 3, *Cherri and Elizabeth Zehm*, sisters, were baptized. Their parents are committed to being a large part of their daughter's spiritual walk with Christ. Mother studied with each of them in preparation for their baptism. All parents should have that privilege,



## *God in the Book of Daniel*

Starting Januaary 17, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the North Room. The first Wednesday will be an overview of the 12 chapters. Lots of God and Daniel commentaries. Bring your Bible! Some cartoons, discussion, fellowship, humor, maps, nature, paintings, picture rolls and prayer. Maybe some music by volunteers?

**FACILITATORS - *Helen and R. Ted Sneed***

### **NOTICE**

**AS OF THE END OF DECEMBER NO MORE LABELS FOR MISSIONS WILL BE COLLECTED!**

### *“When Jesus Sent Letters to His Church”*

We begin a worship series exploring the seven churches of Revelation. On January 13th, Garden Grove welcomes Professor Kendra Haloviak, from the Dept. of Religion at La Sierra University. Dr. Haloviak's dissertation focused on the Book of Revelation, and she will present an overview of our theme, in the context of the book.

On that Sabbath, we will also begin displaying a series of seven banners, created some years ago to explore the themes in the letters. The creator of the banners will also be with us to give some insight into the creative and spiritual process involved in their making.

Then, for the next seven weeks we will ponder the question: “What is Jesus Calling His Church to Become?” If Jesus sent us a letter how would we respond?

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY:**

*“It was “Tea-rrific”*

Thank you for supporting the GGSDA Church Women's Ministry 2nd Annual Christmas Tea this past Sabbath, December 2, 2006. Over 100 women of all ages and sizes convened to a lovely, comforting evening of warm tea, cream scones, joyous laughter and fellowship. Dottie Versteeg provided insight and inspiration for Christian women in today's world through her life stories. Touching, moving entertainment came in the form of Cheris Jensen on vocals, Carol Meckstroth on vocals and piano, seasonal readings by selected members of the Women's Ministry and caroling by all. And as a special tribute to the season, a tea set tree ornament was presented to each guest upon arrival in hopes she would remember the evening for years to come!

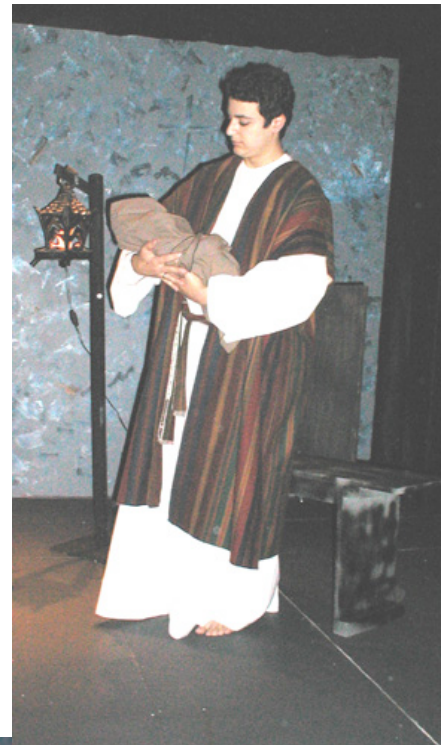
*Special thanks from the GGSDA Church Women's Ministry*  
*Lizz Randall*

# The Story of Hope

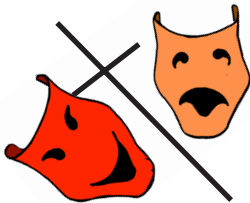
*This years Christmas drama was eight tableaux that came to life to tell the Story of Hope, from the Magi's search for the Christ child to the Saviour beginning His ministry.*



*In word and song  
the promise once  
again rang true the  
Messiah came as a  
babe in Bethlehem  
and the blessed Hope  
He's coming again,  
our Saviour and  
King*



*We would like to thank all those who shared their wonderful talents making this performance a blessing to us ~*



## BEHIND THE SCENES





## ***Youth Notes***

### ***January 19th, 2007, our next FridayNight Live!***

The Young Adults had a wonderful worship on November 10th at the last Friday Night Live! They planned all of the praise and worship music, and the drama.

### ***Junior High Bible Camp***

In October, SECC (the conference) put on the 2nd annual Junior High Bible Camp for 7th and 8th graders. The theme was "The Amazing Race" taken from the hit Television show. The focus of the weekend was to remember what our final destination is in our race of life: to be with Christ. We had six 7th and 8th graders attend: Cody Leon, Amanda Barrientos, Priscilla Campos, Celeste Hernandez-Zarate and her friend Lena Ha, and Omar Lagunas. It was a weekend in which they were able to worship, play and meet others. It is an annual event, open to students of all schools: public, private and home school. Plan on sending your child next year.

### ***The High School youth had a "P" Masquerade Party at the Coetzee home on October 31.***

Everyone was required to dress as something that began with the letter "P". There were pirates, a princess, Pocahontas, a pixey girl, a punk rocker, and of course Austin Powers. We even ate "P" food: popcorn, pizza, pasta and pumpkin pie. .



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NEWSLETTER**

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Permit # 1550

***Garden Grove***  
*Seventh-day Adventist Church*  
12702 Ninth Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840