

November Birthdays:

2-Keith Jagger
4-Pam Seago
10-Elizabeth Eisenzimmer
12-Faith Covington
12-Matthew Clays
12-Jill Osborne
13-Reece Fay
14-Nicolas Delgado
14-Neelan Adams
14-Monika Jagger
14-Lisa Rougeot
18-Andria Clays
18-Sandra Engle
19-Hannah Woodall
21-Breanne Ventura
30-Susan Delgado



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Golden Hills Community
Church of the Nazarene
744 Oak St.
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Family Connection

Golden Hills Church Of The Nazarene

November 2010

“So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish” By Mark Assi

“So long, and thanks for all the fish.” Those are the last words spoken by the Earth’s dolphin population, just before they disappeared, and the Earth was destroyed to make way for a hyperspace bypass in Douglas Adams’ book, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. In this crazy-funny science fiction novel, the final words of the dolphins are of thanksgiving. Though life had not been perfect, and their current world was about to change dramatically, the dolphins looked back and gave thanks for the life sustaining blessing they had received—fish.

Thanksgiving Day is quickly approaching. While this is a season of being thankful, our world can be quite crazy at times, just like the world in Douglas Adam’s story. We often experience joy, but we also go through difficult challenges that leave us with scars and painful memories. Maybe you want to enjoy the season, but you’re scared because of dramatic changes or uncertainties ahead. In the middle of all this, are you able to identify and give thanks for the blessing that sustains you?

I used to hope each year, that each year would be better than the last. I used to hope that the coming year would bring calm, that it would bring financial security, or that I’d just make it through without any major catastrophes. After wishing for those things for so many years, I finally realized that it just wasn’t going to happen. I didn’t give up on life or start having a bad attitude; I simply accepted the fact that

life is just full of stuff, some bad and some good. If you live for more than a few minutes, there’s a good chance you’re going to experience some good and some bad. Life gives you some of everything during one season or another; just read Ecclesiastes 3 and you’ll get a biblical sense of that. I realized that asking God to make the coming year a good one was kind of foolish. Yes, God can trump life and make things happen however He wants, but what I have come to realize is that the struggles have matured my faith and brought me to a greater reliance on Jesus. I can look back and see Jesus’ sustaining

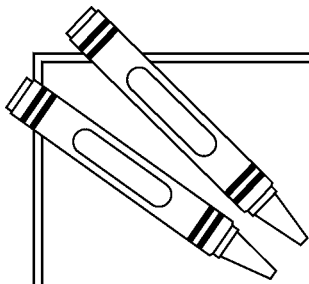


hand in all of life’s struggles. When I struggled with being out of work, Jesus was there. When I struggled with ministry life and how that works with marriage and family life, Jesus was there. When I struggled with my calling, Jesus was there. When relationships with people hurt, Jesus was there. When I struggled as I watched my dad persevere through heart surgery, Jesus was there. When I think about it, Jesus was there during every struggle. He sustained me through every struggle. I’ve reoriented my thinking now days. Instead of praying that God will make the coming year

better than the last, I pray that I’ll walk more closely with Him through each encounter the year brings—good or bad.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I’m reminded of how Jesus has sustained me through all of life’s stuff, and I am very thankful for that. I give thanks for the life sustaining blessing I have received—Jesus!

P.S. Oh yeah, I’m also thankful that Megan reads my articles.



Just for KIDS

THANKSGIVING NAME CARDS

Multiply your thanks

We have so many reasons to give thanks to God. When we take time to count our blessings, we realize they just keep multiplying and adding up.

Use your multiplication or addition skills to answer each equation. Then use the word key below to write out Psalm 100:4 (NIV).

WORD KEY

22= him 16= courts 4=gates 24=name 9=praise 8=and 2=to
12= his 18= give 6= with 10= Enter 20= thanks 15= thanksgiving

“

$$\frac{\quad}{5 \times 2 \text{ or } 5 + 5}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{12 \times 1 \text{ or } 7 + 5}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{2 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 1}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{6 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 1}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 5 \text{ or } 5 + 5 + 5}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{4 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 2}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{6 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 6}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{8 \times 2 \text{ or } 8 + 8}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 3}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 3 \text{ or } 3 + 3 + 3}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{9 \times 2 \text{ or } 9 + 9}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{10 \times 2 \text{ or } 10 + 10}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{1 \times 2 \text{ or } 1 + 1}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{11 \times 2 \text{ or } 16 + 6}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{8 \times 1 \text{ or } 3 + 5}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{9 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 4}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 4 \text{ or } 4 + 4 + 4}$$

$$\frac{\quad}{8 \times 3 \text{ or } 8 + 8 + 8}$$

Answer: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

When you set your table this Thanksgiving, use these homemade name cards with a special message for each guest.

What you need:

- Index cards, any size (one per person)
- Markers
- Fall stickers (optional)
- Fall foam shapes (optional)

What you do:

1. List everyone who will be at your Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Fold each index card in half so it can stand.
3. On one side of each card, write a person's name.
4. Decorate around each name with markers, stickers or foam shapes.
5. On the blank side of each card, write a different Bible verse about blessings or giving thanks. Suggestions include 1 Chronicles 16:34; 1 Chronicles 29:13; Psalm 107:8; Psalm 118:21, 28; or 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
6. Another idea is to write one or more words from one verse on each person's card (depending on the number of guests and words). You can write the verse in order and have people read around the table, or you can mix up the words so guests have to put them in the correct order. (Remember to list the Scripture reference.)



The Power of a simple gift

A girl and her family who received Jesus Christ through Operation Christmas Child helped start a new congregation in their village.

If you walk into the new church in Hardbargain, you will find Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes in almost every crevice and corner. Daniel Kumar, the pastor, has been coordinating shoe box distributions in Trinidad for nine years, and he has no intention of stopping.

During the first distribution in Hardbargain in 2001, an 8-year-old girl named Felisha Hong Ping accepted Christ. Nine years later, her family is helping start and build the first church in the community—The Burning Bush Assembly.

Felisha, now 17, still remembers what she found in her shoe box that day—a doll, stationary, colorful socks, and a teddy bear.

"I wanted to know who sent it and why," she said.

"I didn't know anything about Jesus because I had never been to church before, so I was really curious, and I started to ask my neighbor questions."

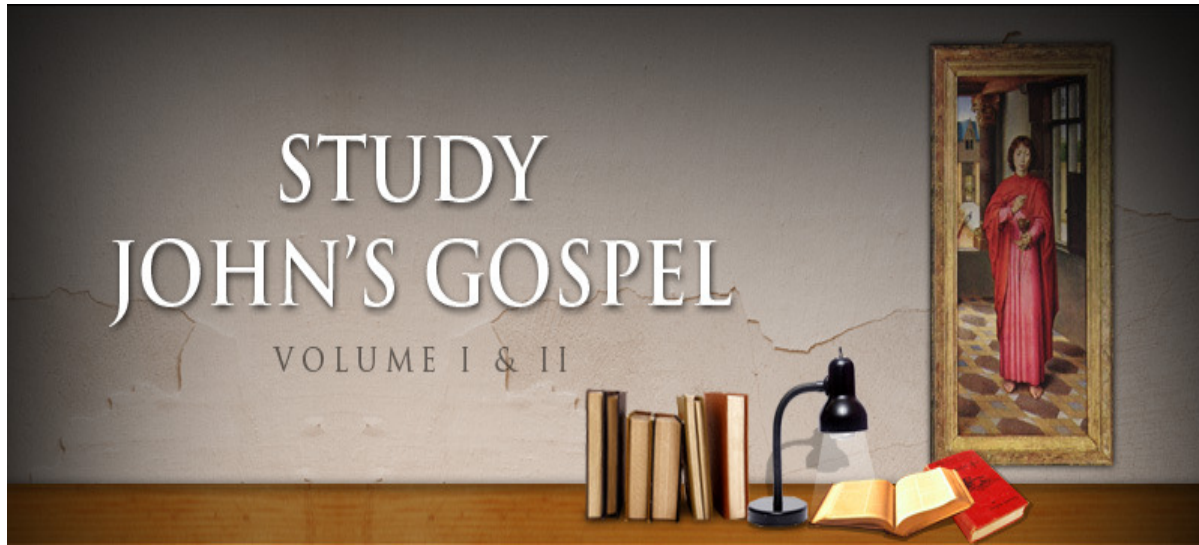
Felisha began going to a church in the nearby village with a friend. She learned more about Jesus Christ, and put her faith and trust in Him. The next time Pastor Daniel coordinated a shoe box distribution near her home, Felisha asked her father, Philip, to bring her little sister.

Philip said it was a life-changing experience when he saw the expressions on the children's faces.

"I was amazed at the love I saw in those boxes, and because of that I started going to church," he said.

More families accepted Christ as the National Leadership Team in Trinidad continued to hand deliver shoe box gifts in Hardbargain, and Pastor Daniel decided to plant a church there. Philip works in construction, and he offered to help lay the new foundation.

(Continued on page 4)



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Hey Everyone, this is by Holly Assi's Dad, Check it out!!!

Thanksgiving: what it means to me.

I wanted to say something about Thanksgiving and what it means to me, but I am not a writer. I do have a favorite book of the bible though, Philippians. It says it all: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7). This is what I am truly grateful and thankful for—that I can just give all my worries and all my praise to God.

By
Katrina Clays

Grapple Schedule

<u>November 3rd</u> What Do I Do When The Pressure's On? What if Saying Yes Makes Me Popular? Not Compromising My Values	<u>No Grapple November 24th</u>
<u>No Grapple November 10th</u>	<u>December 1st</u> What Do I Do When The Pressure's On? What If Being A Christian Makes Me Unpopular? Accepting My Faith
<u>November 17th</u> What Do I Do When The Pressure's On? Would Jesus Fit In With My Friends? Making God Honoring Choices	<u>December 8th</u> Grapple Christmas Party Details TBA
	<u>No Grapple December 15th, 22nd, or 29th</u>

The beginning of Advent

November is the month of Thanksgiving, but it often also includes the beginning of a new church year. This year, November 28 is the first Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is about Jesus, the Word, "coming." It's about anticipating and preparing for Christ's arrival.

God comes to us in many and various ways. He speaks to us through the prophets and saints. He comes and speaks to us when we are listening. He comes in the beauty and mysteries of nature. Most of all, God comes in the person of Christ, speaking to his listeners face to face.



Pastor Edmund Steimle put it this way: "The Christian story is a story of God coming into the middle of life, of our lives, opening the dialogue with us."

That's what Advent is really all about: God visiting the earth in person to speak with anyone and everyone who is ready to do so.



1st Sunday of Advent

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 Grapple 6:30-8:00	4	5	6
7 Loaves And Fishes Sunday Celebration Service: 10:30 Daylight Savings Ends	8	9 Board Meeting 6:30 Upper Room 2:30-5:30	10 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 No Grapple	11 Veterans Day 	12	13
14 Celebration Service: 10:30 Operation Christmas Child bring shoe box today	15	16 Upper Room 2:30-5:30	17 The R.I.O.T 6:00-8:30 Movie Night Grapple 6:30-8:00	18	18	20
21 Celebration Service: 10:30	22	23 Upper Room 2:30-5:30	24 No R.I.O.T No Grapple	25  Thanksgiving	26	27
28 Celebration Service: 10:30  1st Sunday of Advent	29	30 Upper Room 2:30-5:30				

(continued from pg 2)

His entire family has been involved in the church plant, building, painting, and inviting people to come.

When asked what she would say to the person who packed her shoe box, Felisha replied, "I would say thank you very much because it made me learn about God, it helped start this church, and it has changed my life."



Operation Christmas Child Sunday is November 14th!
Bring your filled shoeboxes to church
For more information, visit
www.samaritanaspurse.org

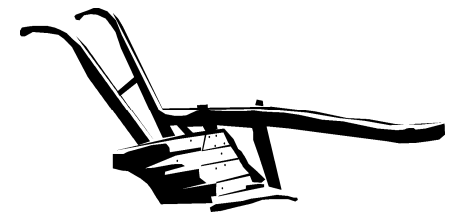
Bible Quiz

The book of Exodus contains many laws for living. One law deals with harvesting crops. God instructed people to plant and gather for six years. What does he say to do in the seventh year?

Choose the correct answer from the options below.

- A. Plant double what you usually plant.
- B. Plant only grass for the animals.
- C. Let the land rest and lie fallow.
- D. Give away all your crops to the poor.

Answer: C (See Exodus 23:10-11.)



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