

October Birthdays:

- 4-Jeweliana Martinez
- 6-Tim Rego
- 7-John Covington
- 9-Amber Assi
- 14-Hugh Eisenzimmer
- 15-Lauren Forsythe
- 25-Jeremy Woodall
- 25-Janet Woodall



September Anniversaries:

- 9-James & Kirsten Spencer

**Golden Hills Community
Church of the Nazarene
744 Oak St.
Paso Robles, CA 93446**



CLASSIFIEDS

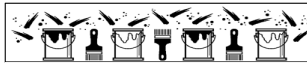
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Family Connection

Golden Hills Church Of The Nazarene

October 2010

Grappling with Halloween

What do these people/things have in common?

The Cookie Monster, Mary Lou Retton, a Teen-age Mutant Ninja Turtle, an Oreo cookie, an army man, the Karate Kid, McDonalds French fries, a pumpkin farmer, a lion, the Incredible Hulk, a baseball player, and a biker for Jesus.

You guessed it. Those were some of my kids' Halloween costumes.

I'm not a sewing person, and I never did have extra cash laying around for the costumes in the stores, so we made due with things we had around the house (which means lots of cardboard).

The costumes didn't really turn out as good as they sound, with the exception of the McDonald's fries (which I saw how to make on a TV show), and the baseball player (my sister made that one for me). Once in awhile, I would purchase something for the costume, but with an agreement:

"If I buy this, you have to wear it for more than just Halloween." Paul agreed to wear a green sweat suit for months just so he could be Leonardo the Ninja Turtle.

I also procrastinated when it came to making costumes. Sometimes I waited until... oh, twenty minutes or so before it was time to go out trick-or-treating. That explains why Paul was the Karate Kid for several years in a row, and why poor Jen ended up having to be the biker for Jesus (she'll probably need counseling for that one someday).

I think my problem was that, well...I just don't like Halloween.

If you do, I'm not going to hold it against you. I just don't. When the creepy decorations start showing up in front of houses on October 1st, and all that candy takes over the market I just get weirded out. I especially dislike the costume aisle, which to be honest is getting way too over the top with the blood and gore. Blood pumping masks? Really? Daggers with guts hanging off of them? Maybe I'm just being girly, but why do we find such fascination with horror? If your kid came home from school with a real machete sticking out of his head, you wouldn't say, "Oh, how cute is that? Here's a treat!"

Lots of Christians don't participate in Halloween, and I totally understand if that's the choice for you and your family. The holiday has pagan roots, and doesn't glorify our Savior, so you have a solid case. I think I would rather Christians not celebrate at all than do what some people I know did – give out religious tracks in the trick-or-treat bags (with no candy attached!) Not a great good neighbor policy.

Some Christians tip-toe into Halloween—you know-- sneak in, sneak out without any damage. That's what Mike and I did when we had kids at home. We carved happy faces in our pumpkins, let the kids choose non-evil costumes, took them out trick-or-treating in our friendly little neighborhood, and attended the harvest festival at church. (The only problem with that McDonalds fries costume was that Paul couldn't sit down in it, and it made it impossible for him to play any of the carnival games.)

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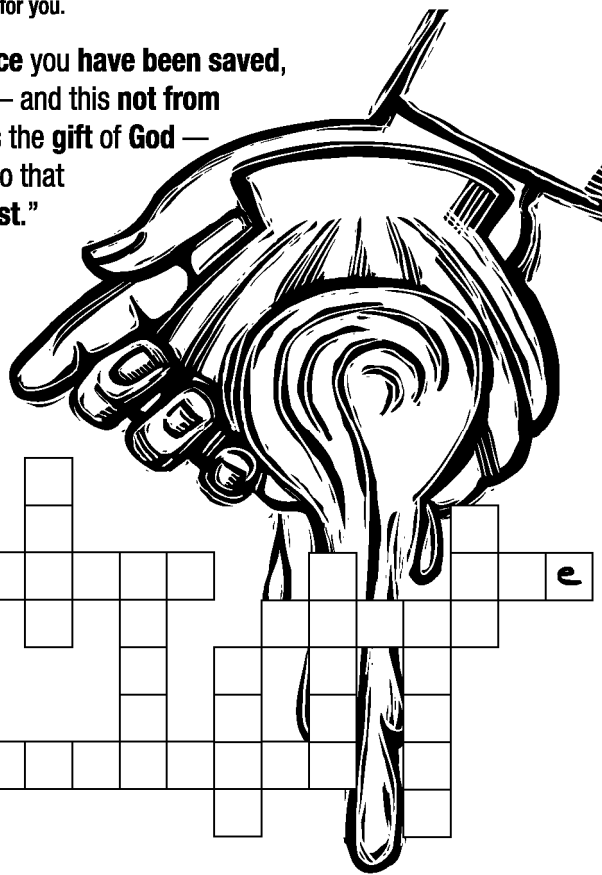
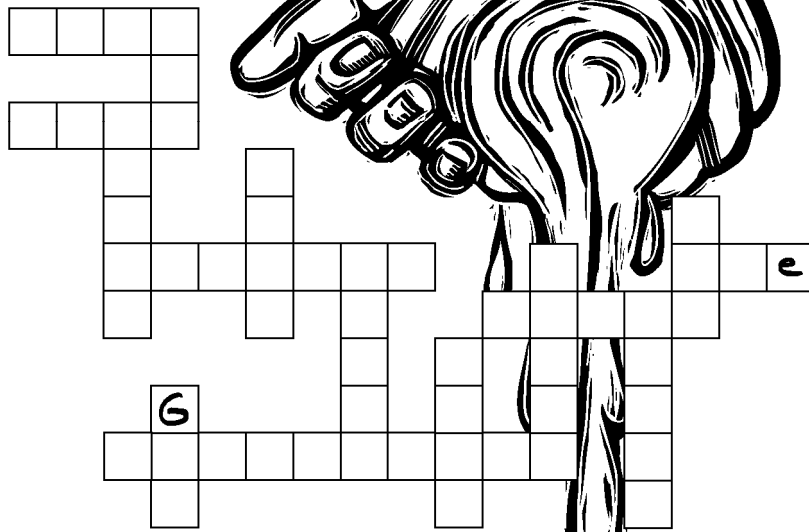
Just for KIDS

THE GIFT

God has given us a gift that we can't work for or buy. Discover what this gift is by reading Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV.

Fit the words in bold into the word puzzle below. We've provided two letters for you.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."



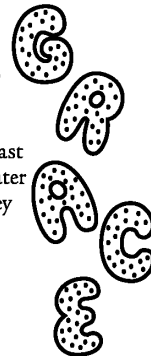
A TASTE OF GRACE

Because Jesus died and rose for us, we have the free gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. That's the meaning of grace: "God's Riches At Christ's Expense."

Celebrate God's grace by "spelling it out" with this fun, nutritious recipe.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 2 bowls
- Mixing spoon
- 1 Tablespoon yeast
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 1/3 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Cutting board
- Cookie sheet



What you do:

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
2. In a small bowl, stir the yeast with the water and honey. Let the mixture sit for five minutes.
3. In another bowl, stir the flour and salt together.
4. After five minutes, add the bubbly yeast mixture to the flour and salt mixture.
5. Stir everything together, first with a spoon and then with your hands. The dough is ready when it's still a little crumbly.
6. Put the dough on a cutting board with a little flour. Knead it into one big ball.
7. Divide the dough into 12 pieces, and roll each piece into a snake shape.
8. Form the letters G R A C E (twice). Then form the two extra pieces into any shape you choose.
9. Bake your letters and shapes on the cookie sheet for about 10 minutes. Let cool, and enjoy!

Identity – Part II

By Mark Assi

In last month's newsletter, I noted the importance of knowing who God is, and to discover this, I went to God's word to see what He says about Himself. In addition to the fundamental question of, "Who does God say he is," it is also important to know who God says we are as His people. So once again, I searched God's word for the answer, and the following list of scriptures is what God says about those who belong to Him...

Who does God say that we are?

"...dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19, NIV).

I just want to pause here for a moment to say, "Wow...that sounds pretty bleak," but what this Genesis 3:19 passage actually tells me is that we are much more than flesh. The following verses tell us what that "much more" is:

- "We are fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps 139:14, NIV).
- "We are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13, NIV).
- "We are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14, NIV).
- "We are worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31, NIV).
- "We are Christ's friend if we do what He commands" (John 15:14-15, NIV).
- "We are the temple of God's Spirit" (1 Corinthians 3:17, NIV).
- "We are not our own; we were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NIV).
- "We are parts of the body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:27, NIV).
- "We are sons/daughters of God and one with other believers through faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-29, NIV).
- "We are God's sons/daughters, and we are no longer slaves but heirs in God's kingdom" (Galatians 4:6-7, NIV).
- "We are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow

citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-21, NIV).
 "We were once darkness, but now we are light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
 "We are sons/daughters of the light and sons/daughters of the day" (1 Thessalonians 5:5, NIV).
 "We are of a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; we are of a people belonging to God" (1 Peter 2:9, NIV).

A few weeks ago, while I was standing at the office copy machine, I heard some voices coming from the front porch. I looked over and saw the top of someone's head poking up just above the window frame. I went out the main door and headed over to the porch so that I could fine out who was there.

That's when I met Tomas and Sheryl. They had arrived on a bus the night before, and after spending the night outside in the cold, they were now relaxing with some Chinese food under our porch. I assured them it was okay to be there, and introduced myself as I sat down with them. During their meal we talked about a great number of different things. It was clear to me that Tomas and Sheryl were down on their luck, and with nothing more than whatever they had stuffed in their back-

packs, they were making their way to the L.A. area in search of work. Unfortunately, due to Tomas' age and physical condition, the night out in the cold had left him exhausted and aching. He was in no condition to get back on the bus that day and make the five hour trip to their final destination. What Tomas and Sheryl desperately needed was a warm shower and a good night's sleep. The church accommodated them for the night in a hotel across the road, but before I left them for the evening, I shared with them the two most important things I have come to know: who God is, and who God says I am. Tomas and Sheryl had quite a bit of religious knowledge in the Christian faith, but they were wrestling with God due to their circumstances.



(Continued on page 4)

Crazy Love Excerpt

One Example of living obsessed with Jesus.

Nathan Barlow

A medical doctor who chose to utilize his skills in Ethiopia for more than sixty years, Nathan dedicated his life to helping people with mossy foot. Mossy foot is a debilitating condition primarily found in rural districts, on people who work in soil of volcanic origin. It causes swelling and ulcers in the feet and lower legs. The subsequent deformity, swelling, repeated ulcerations, and secondary infections make people with mossy foot social outcast equivalent to lepers.

I met Nathan shortly before he died. His daughter, Sharon Daly, attends my church and brought him to her home from Ethiopia when his health started to fail. After only a few weeks, he couldn't handle being in the States. The people he loved were still in Ethiopia, so his daughter flew him back home so he could spend his last days there.

Once, Nathan got a toothache, the pain of which was so intense that he had to fly away from the mission field to get medial attention. Nathan told the dentist that he didn't ever want to leave the mission field for the sake of his teeth again, so he had the dentist pull out *all* of his teeth and give him false ones so he wouldn't slow God's work in Ethiopia.

This amazing man was the first to help these outcasts, and he spent his life doing it. Yet he died quietly, without a lot of attention; no one really knew about him.

It surprised me that such a man of God would faithfully serve for so many years, despite minimal recognition. It is a beautiful thing to witness. The work Nathan started continues through his Web site, www.mossyfoot.com



Grapple Schedule

October 6th

Who Is God?: How Can God Be Everywhere?
God is Always With Us

October 13th

Who is God?: Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?
God Is in Control

October 20th

Who is God?: Is There Anything God Can't Do?
God is Holy

October 27th

What Do I Do When the Pressure's On?: What If I'm The Only One Saying No?
Standing For My Faith

November 3rd

What Do I Do When the Pressure's On?: What if Saying Yes Makes Me Popular?
Not Compromising My Values

No Grapple November 10th

(Continued from page 1)

Even James Dobson of Focus on the Family endorses this kind of harmless tradition for Halloween.

It worked okay for us, but it still wasn't my favorite time of the year.

So now we have the kids raised. Whew! But are we done with the Halloween hullabaloo? Oh no.

Now I'm a Children's Pastor! And Halloween still comes around every year. It's *never* going away. It's part of our culture. And this year it's on a SUNDAY! How could that happen? Isn't Halloween supposed to skip the Lord's Day?

I started pondering and praying about this, when some thoughts hit me:

Our world is evil—*everyday*. The darkness doesn't save itself for one night. Lots of the holidays that we gladly participate in are rooted in paganism and hedonism. Nothing the world does glorifies our Lord Jesus Christ. Christians are the *only* ones who glorify Jesus. We can glorify Jesus every day....even on Halloween.

Last year, a group of us left on Halloween day to

go on a mission trip to Sun Valley Indian School. That was a cool way to spread the Light of Life. This year, why don't we unite together in a mission to Paso Robles? We can "Light the Night" for Christ! Let's face it – Halloween is one of the few nights of the year when everyone is out with their kids looking for a safe and fun time. Why can't we give them one in the name of Jesus?

Our event this year will take place at our new office/conference facility at 744 Oak St. We will enclose the outside area and provide some safe activities from 6:00-8:00. Did I mention light? Oh, yeah, we're going to have lights! (That means I need to borrow some strings of white lights) We'll also have candy. In fact, on their way out, every kid should get a *full-sized* candy bar...and a personal reminder of how much Jesus loves them--no matter if they're a fairy princess, a ninja turtle, a zombie, *or even* a blood-sputtering, machete-in-the-head, dagger-wielding, gut-spilling monster (who's really just a little kid, after all).

Hope to see you there!

Serving Him,

Jill



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