

HAYWARD HERALD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the Pastor</i>	2
<i>Women's Ministries</i>	2
<i>School News</i>	3
<i>Youth Update</i>	4
<i>Five Languages</i>	4

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HOLIDAY OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

This holiday season, our church touched the lives of many people in the community, inviting them to drop by, be reminded that God loves them, and receive gifts of food, toys, and warm coats.

On Thanksgiving, the social committee hosted a meal for approximately 70 individuals. Planning started in September, including an extensive plan to get the word out to community members. The church's Pathfinder club for young people handed out flyers in the neighborhood. The church's men's group, known as the Ambassadors, also helped distribute announcements, and church members posted flyers at various community locations.

Planning the food also took a lot of teamwork. Many people got involved preparing the food ahead of time, as there wasn't enough space (or time) to prepare the food on site at the church. Members of the Elmhurst Adventist Church in Oakland also helped provide food, and their pastor attended the event along with some Elmhurst church members. When guests arrived, they were warmly welcomed and treated to a traditional Thanksgiving meal served by church youth and social committee members.

The social committee also invited community



members to drop by the church two days before Christmas for a reception and distribution of toys and warm coats. Church members donated the coats and new toys, which were supplemented by toy donations received by the local fire department. Four new bikes were also donated and raffled off to four lucky children.

More than 160 people attended, enjoyed refreshments, and had the opportunity to hear about God's love for them. Some of those individuals now attend our church services and participate in Bible studies.

To get involved with other social committee events, contact Tammy Jimenez at church or leave a message for her at the church office 510-782-3422.



The church's community services team also got involved in outreach over the holidays, putting together food baskets.

The team organizes food and clothing giveaways year around on Sundays and Tuesdays. To help out, contact Eng Saw or leave a message for him at the church office 510-782-3422.

THOUGHTFUL MOMENTS WITH GOD

FROM THE PASTOR

BY PAUL PENNO, JR.

*“We are not
spectators
at the arena;
we are players
on the field.”*

When we wake up each new morning, we face bewilderment and confusion all over the earth. We humans cover the earth like little ants running around when you disturb them, and yet we humans are the family of God. We are created in His image; the glorious Creator of the vast universe left His high and holy place and became one of us. We are not "ants," we are sons and daughters of God "in Him." We are fellow-saints with Him engaged in the greatest struggle that has ever been waged in the universe — the controversy between Christ and Satan. We are not spectators at the arena; we are players on the field.

What's happening around us is the closing scene of this titanic war between two "spirits" — the One designated in the Bible as "Holy," and "the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience", who is inspired by "the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Eph. 2:2; Rev. 12:9).

How can "the whole world" be deceived? Jesus says that so terrible will be the deception that it will come "on the face of the whole earth" like "a snare" (Luke 21:35). It's happening now. But thank God, not everyone will be deceived.

Think what it was like when Jesus was born; the masses knew the inspired prophecies of the Old Testament or at least had ready access to them if they didn't want to be deceived, yet how many recognized the Messiah when He came as a humble Baby in Bethlehem? Some did, but only a few.



So today; there is for sure "a remnant" (Rom. 9:27); "few that be saved" (Luke 13:23), who have learned the lesson of Bethlehem, who "walk softly" (1 Kings 21:27), who respond to "the still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12), that calls them in God's word, who choose to believe every truth that the Holy Spirit teaches as "He guides you into all truth" (John 16:13), who

"follow the Lamb [the crucified Christ] wherever He goes" (Rev. 14:4, 5), who are "with Him" as He takes His final stand in the struggle of the nations of earth (Rev. 17:14), who identify with "the Lamb" so closely that they penetrate His thinking and His feelings as a bride penetrates her husband's deepest yearnings.

Amid earth's clash of arms and the din of its endless traffic, LISTEN.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

New plans are underway for women's ministries at our church. A group of eager women met on New Year's Eve to brainstorm ideas.

One goal is to hold monthly tea parties in homes, where women can get to know each other, invite friends, and chat about a variety of topics, including how God is working in their lives.



In addition, plans have been made for a seminar on a health-related topic, such as stress reduction, which will take place in April. The group also hopes to initiate some informal activities, such as outdoor walks in scenic locations.

Watch for announcements in the church bulletin. If you want to help out with or participate in any women's ministry events, contact Kate Edwards or leave a message for her at the church office 510-782-3422.

*Watch for new
women's events
to be announced soon.*

THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES HERE

SCHOOL NEWS

Did you know that 33 students now attend our church's Bayside School? They range in age from kindergarteners to students in 8th grade. Two teachers and two classroom aides provide a wonderful Christian education to the students, and numerous volunteers enrich the learning environment. They include volunteers who help tutor children in math, assist with computer classes, and coach P.E. activities. According to Principal Deborah Joplin, the volunteers are an integral part of the school's family environment.

When asked why she loves to teach at our school, Deborah explained, "Our teachers and aides continuously focus on how the things the children are learning today will prepare them to serve God in the future. I invite students to ponder how God may one day use the things they are learning now. That's one of the joys of teaching in a Christian school, where teachers have the opportunity to talk about God every day with their students." This Christian focus is reflected in the school's motto: *The Holy Spirit Teaches Here.*

Deborah is also quick to point out all the benefits of a small school. "It's more like a family, where everybody knows everyone else, and nobody goes unnoticed or feels

overlooked. Each child is noticed and appreciated every day, and they all quickly learn that they can make a real difference in a small school environment."

Several students would not benefit from the school's Christian education without the generous contributions from many church members, which help cover tuition costs. The donations are greatly appreciated by the parents and their children. If you are able to help with student scholarships, you are invited to put your donation in an envelope at church, mark it "worthy student fund," and place it in the offering plate.

If you know someone who may be interested in sending their child to our school, invite them to give Deborah Joplin a call and chat about all the benefits of a Christian education at a small school.

You can also contact Deborah if you are interested in volunteering at Bayside School.

Bayside School
510.785.1313

"Ponder how God may one day use the things you are learning now..."



Bayside School students present Christmas program at church

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We're on the web!
Hayward.AdventistFaith.org

Nothing but the Kingdom



*Offering programs in
five languages....*

STAYING PLUGGED IN THROUGH MUSIC AND LEADERSHIP

YOUTH MINISTRY

Look around our church, and you'll see a growing number of youth who want to get involved and get ready for future service. Elder Steve Grappone is hard at work, finding ways to inspire them to tap into their talents to serve God. He knows that if he doesn't capture their attention now and convince them that they are an important part of the church community, they may not be in church later on.

One way that young people are getting involved and sharing their gifts is by taking part in Friday evening vesper services. These weekly services include music, prayer, and a guest speaker. High school and middle school students help by leading music, and Steve hopes they will stretch their wings in the future by delivering sermonettes and finding other ways to take part in the services.

The Friday evening vesper services start at 7:00 pm, and typically end by 8:30 pm. Steve reminds everyone that while the youth are a big part of the evening services, they are designed for young people and everyone who is "young at heart." All ages are invited

Young people from our church are also taking their talents on the road, sharing their musical gifts with other churches. For example, on the first Sabbath in January, a group of 20 youth visited a new Adventist congregation in Union City. Steve explains that the service was a "sermon in music." He shared various Bible verses about music, including the first mention of a musical instrument in Genesis. The young people shared songs, praising God with a brass choir, a bell choir, a group of guitarists, vocal ensembles, and a piano solo.



SHARING IN MANY LANGUAGES

Did you know that our church offers programs in five different languages? They include Sabbath School classes in English, Tagalog, and Spanish, a Sabbath morning worship service in Mandarin, and a new Korean program on Sabbath afternoons. If you have a friend who is looking for a program in one of these languages, be sure to invite them.

If you have questions regarding church events or programs, please feel free to contact the church office at 510-782-3422, or send an email to the church office at Hayward_SDA_Church@att.net