

HAYWARD HERALD

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE FROM THE SEAT OF YOUR BIKE

More than 20 of our church's young people spent a busy day riding bikes to raise money for the Pathfinder program. They got up early on a Sunday morning so they could leave church by 6 am and head out on the road to join up with hundreds of other young people from around Northern California for a day of bike riding, great food, and fellowship.

According to Melanie Valdez, a 12-year-old from our church who attended her first bike-a-thon this year, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet kids from other Pathfinder clubs. She rode 13 laps on her bike, despite the unseasonably hot day.

Young people from our church not only spent their time riding their bikes and earning sponsor donations for every lap they completed, many of them also volunteered to work at the club's food booth, where they raised additional money. Nearly a dozen adult volunteers from our church helped prepare the gourmet vegetarian dishes available at the food booth, including wontons and fried rice. The adults also made it possible for the young people to travel more than two hours (each way) in order to attend the bike-a-thon, an annual event for all Pathfinder clubs in Northern California.



Hayward Pathfinders 2010 Bike-A-Thon Fundraiser

Our church's Pathfinder club serves young people ages ten through late teens, providing opportunities to explore nature, reach out to others through community service, grow in their faith, and be prepared for leadership roles in the future.

The 2010-2011 club year will get underway in September and individuals who are interested in getting involved should contact the church office or Pathfinder club leader Marge Schwartz, who shares that "Pathfinders is all about having fun with other Christians while doing things that honor God."

You can contact Pathfinder leader Marge Schwartz at schwartz2go@aol.com



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Photos courtesy of Ernesto An and Kevin Thio

Printing courtesy of Norman and Gail Reitz

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES: A SPECIAL BLESSING

If you're looking for a very special way to start your weekend, you may want to consider attending one of our Friday evening services that offer an uplifting mix of music, drama, and sharing from God's Word.

The evening begins with a time of group singing, led by a youthful and enthusiastic music team. Many young people take part, bringing their voices, guitars, and other instruments to fill the chapel with beautiful music. Everyone who attends is blessed by the time of praising God through song, and most evenings also include a special music presentation.

Some evenings also include a dramatic presentation that makes God's truth come alive, or a time of individual sharing, where those who attend the service have the opportunity to describe some of the ways God has been working in their lives. Hearing each person's story

about answered prayer and God's touch in their lives is truly inspiring.

Each evening also includes a message from God's Word, usually presented by Youth Director Josh Mura. His messages are filled with words of encouragement, comfort, and motivation to take your faith to the next level. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to hear Josh speak, you are missing out on a real blessing.

While the Friday evening services are an encouragement to individuals of all ages, they provide an opportunity to engage young people in church leadership. "By identifying which gifts each person can bring to the service and deciding as a group how to plan the services, the young people will develop their faith and their leadership skills," says Josh. "These young people are the future of our church, and it's thrilling to see them so excited about getting involved."

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sharing from God's
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NURTURING OUR YOUTH

In addition to leading out in our Friday evening services, Josh Mura is rolling up his sleeves and working hard to expand and enhance our church's programs for youth, with a goal of nurturing their spiritual growth and helping them feel more connected to their church community.

Josh's approach to leading the youth program includes giving young people "opportunities to use their talents to serve God, within the struc-

ture and guidance provided by adults." Part of creating that structure includes the recent elections for youth group leaders, who now are responsible for a wide range of duties, from drama leader, to audio-visual manager, to communication coordinator. In addition, Josh works with his youth leaders to plan events throughout the week, including hikes, pizza parties, and game nights, as well as service to the community. Contact Josh at joshshshshua@yahoo.com



NEW SMALL GROUPS LAUNCHED FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Individuals in their 20s and 30s are invited to check out our church's new group for young adults. The group meets on **Thursday evenings** for a time of food, fellowship, and Bible study.

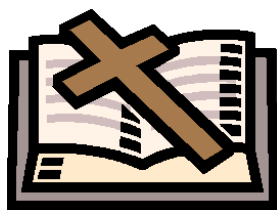


For more information, contact John Shue at john.shue@gmail.com

NEW SPIRITUAL DEFENSE BIBLE CLASS LAUNCHED

A new "spiritual defense" Bible class is now meeting at our church every Saturday afternoon at 2 pm. Led by Charles Reynolds, the class focuses on topics that are pertinent to teens, young adults, and young parents, though individuals of all ages are welcome to attend.

Charles decided to start the class in response to observations that many people have stopped attending church. The class seeks to address the reasons these individuals decide to stop attending, including their discouragement about their inability to live up to biblical ideals, a disinterest in spiritual things, a feeling that the church is no longer relevant to their lives, and their inability to articulate their beliefs to others.



interest in spiritual things, a feeling that the church is no longer relevant to their lives, and their inability to articulate their beliefs to others.

According to Charles, when people can understand and appreciate the depth of God's love for them, from both an experiential and intellectual perspective, they are much less likely to stop attending church. In his class, Charles hopes to provide his students with the depth of understanding they need to articulate their own beliefs about God's love for them and the relevancy of biblical truths to their own lives.



The class is called Holy Jeet Kune Do, a Chinese term that means "way of the intercepting fist." It is a Bible-based "spiritual defense" class that provides students with the Bible knowledge they need to strengthen their faith, despite obstacles and negative pressure from those around them.

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THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTOR

BY PAUL PENNO, JR.

College teachers are perplexed with large numbers of students who cannot feel moral outrage at anything evil. For example, they don't like the Holocaust that took place in Nazi Germany, but they won't say that killing millions of people was wrong. Between 10% and 20% of these students say that killing these millions of people was "a matter of personal taste or preference, not moral judgment."

"Of course I dislike the Nazis," one student told the professor, "but who is to say that they are morally wrong?" Some students also refuse to condemn human sacrifice, because, they say, the Aztecs did it, and who is to judge them morally? Slavery is unfortunate, they add, but we can't say it's wrong!

They have been educated to believe that "no one has the right to criticize the moral views of another group or culture." Another teacher asked the class if human sacrifice was wrong. One woman said, "I really don't know. If it was a religion of long standing . . ." Shades of paganism! The teacher was stunned at this lack of moral outrage about anything.

To those who know we are living in the time of the end, this sad news is not surprising. We are repeating the days of Noah before the flood. But somewhere there should be an ark of safety where right is clearly distinguished from wrong, where truth is clearly distinguished from error.



That ark of safety is the remnant church. It should be a place where truth is positively, firmly confessed. But the same nihilism that is permeating society is trying to permeate the church so that many members have no firm convictions about the truths that made this church to be what it is. Anything can be "truth," for it's relative.

...if we can't tell the difference between truth and error, or don't think the difference is important, how can we be free?

The Truth Will Set You Free



Jesus said positively, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. But if we can't tell the difference between truth and error, or don't think the difference is important, how can we be "free"? And how can we help the world that needs to know? But there's Good News: truth will triumph in that remnant church!



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"When you are facing difficult circumstances, remember that God answers prayers."

A NEW WAY TO MAKE YOUR BIRTHDAY A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Many of us have fond memories of children's birthday parties, which may include cakes and candles, piñatas, and a game of pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey. As you transition to adulthood, you may not be as happy to turn one year older. But birthdays can take on a special new meaning if you can use them as an opportunity to give to your friends and family.

One member of our church decided to change her approach to birthday celebrations, and by doing so, found a wonderful way to reach out to those who hold a special place in her life. Suzan Field decided to invite family members and co-workers to join her for a birthday celebration at church, where they were warmly welcomed by Suzan's friends from church, enjoyed great food, and were blessed by spending time with caring individuals, who are a big part why

Suzan decided to become a member of our church.



When Suzan celebrated her birthday this year, she hoped that her friends and family would be blessed by the worship service and the fellowship at our church. According to Suzan, the day far exceeded her expectations. Her friends were "blown away by the love they felt at our church, and expressed an interest in coming back."

The next time you have a birthday, rather than getting discouraged by turning another year older, Suzan encourages you to take the opportunity to reach out to others, remind them that God loves them, and invite them to join in a church-based birthday celebration.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

A TESTIMONY BY GEORGE EDWARDS



One of our church members, George Edwards, faced some challenging circumstances in recent months, and he took the time to share how his faith in God made all the difference during this difficult journey.

In November 2009, I had my annual medical exam, which revealed some concerns. Further tests indicated that I needed surgery for my colon, as well as my prostate. After prayers by my family and consultation with physicians, it was agreed to tackle the colon first and later the prostate.

On February 13, 2010, during a service at our church, I was anointed by one of our elders and received prayers from Pastor Penno, elders, and our church family. Just three days later, on February 16, surgery on my colon was successful. With follow-up checks confirming the positive results from the surgery, I decided to tackle the prostate issues.

On July 7, Elder Manuel Castillo and Youth Director Josh Mura came to my home. They prayed and anointed me. In the evening, before our mid-week church service, each elder had a special prayer for me in the church office. This was an emotional occasion for me. I felt their love, their care and well wishes, and the power of prayer.

On July 9, I underwent treatment for my prostate. All prayers were answered. There were no complications from the one-day procedure. I entered the hospital in the morning (accompanied by my wife), and we left in the afternoon.

I praise God for the outcome of both procedures, and I feel blessed to have good health. I am also thankful for all of the people who prayed for me, including my family, friends at our church, and people at other churches. When you are facing difficult circumstances, remember that God answers prayers.

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

7-hsda_secretary@att.net