

**Granada Baptist Church**

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December, 2005



# Granada Good News

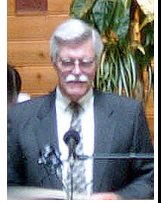
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## Pastor's Notes

The Christmas season is upon us and it is a season born right out of the heart of God, our Father. We can hardly think of Christmas without thinking of Giving, Receiving, and Worshipping. I pray and hope for you to experience these as a full expression of your life this Christmas. We will have opportunities at church for you to experience all three and

for you to invite others to join you as we gather. What would Christmas be if you didn't give to God from your resources so that others may know the joy from heaven that warms our hearts and fills our mouths with laughter? Give you best gift (as God leads you) to the



Pastor David O'Brien

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## Seniors' Luncheon

Twenty-two Seniors and their guests met on November 17, 2005, for their program and luncheon. Mary Schoenecke opened the program by announcing that we will have a different type of gift exchange this year. We're only allowed to buy a dollar gift; maybe something just for fun or else bring a package or can of food to donate to a needy family for Christmas. We're so blessed in America, but not everyone is as fortunate as most of us are.

Jack Deligans told us that he and Philip Locke

went to the California Southern Baptist Convention in San Jose. The 1967 churches gave \$950,000.00 to aid the victims of the hurricanes in the Southern states.

Prayer requests were given for Lynn Deligans who has a sore throat and cough. Janice Brown needs our prayers. Jack Deligans gave a prayer for them and our Armed Forces.

Roy Schoenecke played the piano while we sang *Standing on the Promises* and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

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### The Perfect Pastor

1. Preaches exactly 20 minutes and follows it with an invitation in which everyone is convicted but no one is offended.

2. Works from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in every type of work from counseling to custodial service.

3. 27 years old with 30 years of preaching experience.

4. Tall and short.

5. Thin and heavy set.

6. Handsome but not overpowering.

7. One brown eye and one blue eye.

8. Hair is parted in the middle and is straight on one side and wavy on the other side, with a balding spot on top revealing his maturity.

9. Has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all his time with the older folks.

10. He smiles constantly with a straight and sober face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously at his work.

11. Invests 25 hours a week in sermon preparation, 20 hours in counseling, 10 hours in meetings, five hours in emergencies, 20 hours in visitation and evangelism, 6 hours in weddings and funerals, 30 hours in prayer and meditation, 12 hours in letter writ-

ing, and administration, and 10 hours in creative thinking. (That is 133 of the 168 hours in the week – what does he do with the other 35? Probably 5 hours a day of sleep.)

12. Spends 5 evenings at home with his family, plus a day off, and always stops for interruptions.

13. A seminary graduate, but uses only one- and two-syllable words.

14. Makes 15 calls a day.

15. Spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched.

16. Attends all retreats, goes to all youth retreats.

17. Is always available in his office.

18. His kids are perfect.

19. His mother is rich.

20. His wife plays the piano.

21. His house is large.

22. His bank account is small.

23. His car is in the shop.

24. He is paid too much, too little, and he gives it all away.

25. He is talented, gifted, scholarly, practical, popular, compassionate, understanding, patient, level headed, dependable, loving, caring, neat, organized, cheerful, and above all, humble.



### Directory Update

A new Church Directory is now available. If you would like a copy, please let us know. Also, please re-

port all changes, updates, etc. as soon as possible.

## December 2005

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

### Schedule of Events

**Dec. 4** — 11:00 am — **Lord's Supper and A. J. Hyatt Offering**

— 12:15 pm — **Church Council**

**Dec. 11** — 12:30 pm — **Fellowship Luncheon**

— 3:00 pm — **Piano Recital by Elizabeth O'Brien's students**

**Dec. 15** — 10:45 am — **Seniors' Luncheon**

**Dec. 24** — 6:00 pm — **Candlelight Lord's Supper**

**Dec. 25** — **Christmas Day**

**Dec 31** — **New Year's Eve**

### Weekly schedule

Sunday, 9:45 am: Bible Study for all ages

Sunday, 11:00 am: Worship

Tuesday, 10:00 am: Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Saturday, 7:30 am: Prayer Breakfast



Christmas Eve Service

### Birthdays

9 **Katherine Thomas**

21 **Jeff Gooby**

29 **Don Goody**

Note: If your birthday is not listed, it is not in the editor's database. If you want your birthday or anniversary listed, let me know.

Personal Thoughts

When Joseph first learned that his fiancée Mary was pregnant, his first inclination was to break off the engagement, but an angel reassured him that the child she was carrying was actually brought about by the Holy Spirit. But I wonder if they fully understood the importance of the baby that would be born to them. Granted, a virgin had never been with child before, so Mary's pregnancy must have seemed very unusual. But I imagine this young couple probably believed the popular misconception among the Jews of the time that the Messiah was coming to save them from the oppressive rule of the Roman Empire. God, however, had higher plans for His Son's life, and decades later, Mary could look back over the life of her oldest Son after His resurrection and understand what the angel had told her husband.

People often have false expect-

tations when Christmas rolls around each year. They often find some enjoyment from the parties and the gift giving, but when January rolls around they find themselves just as empty, maybe even emptier than they were before the holiday season. They've missed out on the true meaning of Christmas itself, the very reason for the season. There's such a joy in remembering the birth of Jesus. He didn't come in our world for no reason at all. He came to die for our sins and to give us an abundant new life. Even Christians forget that at this time of year. Let's keep in mind that Christmas is more than just a time for giving gifts to each other, but also for celebrating the gift that God gave us in His Son.

In Jesus, Frank

***“But after [Joseph] had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.’” -- Matthew 1:20, 21 (NIV)***

OCC—Operation Christmas Child

This year, we have sent twenty-nine shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (also known as Operation Shoebox), a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Shoeboxes (or plastic boxes about that size) are filled with gifts for needy children around the world.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Mary Schoenecke read an article written by Norman Vincent Peale about all the things we have to be thankful for.

Jane Hook had us participate in a quiz about Thanksgiving trivia and then Mary had her read a letter she'd received from Terry Vanderhoofven. Terry told of Sheriff Robert who helped families evacuate their homes and go to shelters, for 82 hours straight, during Hurricane Katrina. He felt joyful that he was able to be of help to so many of them. He was a hero; one of many who helped people during that dreadful time. He encouraged everyone to look for ways to help needy people. Sometimes just a small deed would make a big difference in a person's life.

Alma Farris read a story about a small boy who was given an American flag that encouraged him to make himself be a better person as he was growing up. Alma also read a list of 25 Things that define "The Perfect Pastor."

Carl Serkland read *How God Gets Our Attention*.

Catherine Fletcher gave the devotions based on the Puritans who came to America in 1620 where they would be able to have religious free-

dom. Of the 102 people that came here on the Mayflower, 46 died from disease and the hardships they suffered. They were befriended by the native Indians who taught them how to grow food and hunt game to improve their life here and in 1621 they celebrated with a Thanksgiving feast that lasted 3 days. (Catherine had Carl Serkland read William Bradford's "A Call to Thanksgiving.")

In June 1963, the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to have religious practice or the Lord's Prayer in schools. Since then there has been a steady erosion of religious freedom on public display as well, and the 10 Commandments are forbidden on public buildings.

This Thanksgiving, take a moment to thank God for all His blessings and faithfulness. Read Philippians 4:6-7 about the promises of God.

Jack Deligans gave the closing prayer and a blessing for the lunch to follow.

Our next luncheon will be on December 15, so be sure to mark it on your calendar.

Jane Hook



## Top Ten Indications That Christmas May Be A Little Too Commercial

10. The only time you've heard Jesus mentioned this year was when your neighbor opened his Visa bill!

9. You mentioned the "Star in the East" to someone and they thought you were talking about Jackie Chan!

8. Your son thought St. Nick, Kris Kringle, and Father Christmas were the Three Wise Men.

7. You got more Christmas cards from companies than friends!

6. When you hear the name Bethlehem, you think . . . Ah, steel manufacturing!

5. You asked your neighbor to come to church Christmas Eve, and they said, "What's Christmas got to do with church?"

4. The last time you said "Merry Christmas" to someone, they called the "Politically Correct Police"!

3. When you got to the part in the Christmas account about there being "no room in the inn", your first thought was, "Maybe I should invest in the hospitality industry!"

2. When you told your Sunday School class about the Magi's gifts, a couple of the kids wondered about their current market value!

1. Simple, you spent more time running and buying than you did bending to worship!

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Imagine the buzz around the coffee maker in Heaven.. when it was learned God's plan for salvation for mankind. **Luke 1:25ish**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering so that we can meet our goal of \$1,284. Give with confidence knowing that 100% of what you give will go to places where people are still waiting to hear about God's great gift to us, His Son, Jesus. The giving was started by God and we enjoy His pleasure when we give.

What would Christmas be if you didn't receive something given to you by someone else? God initiated the idea of our receiving something when He said, "For unto you is born this day a Savior; He is Christ, the Lord." John, the apostle, completed the gift tag when he wrote, "Yet to all who receive Him...He gives the right to

become children of God." Make up your mind this Christmas to receive love, friendly greetings, smiles, kind words, a hug, an expression of appreciation, or an unexpected gift. Most importantly, open your heart to receive the Christ child and all His love.

What would Christmas be if we didn't follow the wise men's example of coming and worshiping? Come with your heart prepared to worship Jesus as we gather each Sunday morning and on Christmas Eve for our candle light communion service. Bring your mind's attention and your heart's affection to the manger and rejoice that God loves us so much that He gave his only begotten Son to us who would receive Him.

## CHRISTMAS LOVE

A paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13:

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have

missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

By Sharon Jaynes