

January 2006



# Granada Good News

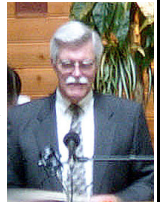
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## Pastor's Notes

We look forward to many things and many people in the days ahead. God has blessed us with a new excitement as we think about just the plans we have in January. Our church-wide dinner will be right after morning worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Make your plans to include your friends and family. Invite them to join you for morning worship at 11:00 a.m.

before we break bread together afterward.

We will begin to launch our Operation Andrew around every special event we have. Begin by making a list of everyone God puts on your heart. Write their names down, start praying for them, and invite them to



Pastor David O'Brien

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## Seniors' Luncheon

Thirty-four Seniors and their guests met on December 15, 2005, for their program and luncheon.

Mary Schoenecke welcomed everyone and then we had a play about the story in the Bible about God choosing Mary to be the Mother of Jesus and Joseph who traveled to Bethlehem to register for the census ordered by Caesar Augustus, the Emperor of Rome. While they were at Bethlehem it came time for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph could not find a room to

rend anywhere. Finally the Innkeeper and his daughter Rachel decided they could sleep in the stable. It was warm from the heat of the cattle and they gave them blankets to use.

Later the Innkeeper and Rachel heard singing coming from the sky and saw a bright star shining above. Shepherds tending the flocks heard the music and were frightened by an angel appeared to them and told them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be unto

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## **ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING**

By Francie Baltazar-Schwartz

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, 'Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood.' I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested. "Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to

be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it. Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was go-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **January 2006**

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

### **Schedule of Events**

- Jan. 1** 11:00 am — **Worship Service**  
12:15 pm — **Church Council**
- Jan. 8** 12:30 pm — **Fellowship Luncheon**
- Jan. 15** 12:15 pm — **Business Meeting, presentation of budget**
- Jan. 19** 10:45 am — **Seniors' Luncheon**
- Jan. 22** 11:00 am — **Baptist Men's Day**  
5:00 pm — **Deacon Ordination**
- Jan. 29** 11:00 am — **Baptism**  
6:00 pm — **Bluegrass Gospel Concert by Gospel Creek**

### **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

### **Birthdays**

- 9 **Travis Pelser**  
21 **Alma Farris**

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

### **Personal Thoughts**

A young boy had just joined the Cub Scouts when he, along with the rest of the boys in the pack, were given the implements for making a toy car for the pack's annual Pinewood Derby. The other Cubs Scouts had a father to help them make their cars, or at least a grandfather or an uncle, but this particular boy's father was not the type that was eager to do things with his son. So the boy's block of wood remained untouched for several weeks until the boy's mother decided to intervene. Since she had no carpentry skills, she decided it was best to just read the directions and let her son do the work. It took a few days, but the boy sanded and painted his block of wood, then added the little tires he'd been given, and at last he had his Pinewood Derby car. It was a bit lopsided, but he was proud of it.

But then came the night of the Pinewood Derby, and the boy saw the cars that the other boys had made. All the other cars were shaped perfectly and had attractive paint jobs. The boy thought he had no chance to win against competition like that. The race began in elimination fashion. You kept racing as long as you won your heat. Somehow, this young boy's wobbly, lopsided car kept beating all the smooth, sleek cars until it came down to the very last race. As the boy prepared for the championship race, he asked the Scoutmaster if he could pray before the race. Dropping to his knees, he wrinkled his brow and prayed for

what seemed like an eternity, then stood up and said, "I'm ready." He and his opponent put their cars on the ramp, and as our young hero's car crossed the finish line first, the crowd roared its approval. The Scoutmaster came up to the young boy and asked him the obvious question: "So you prayed to win, huh?" To which the boy answered, "Oh, no, sir. That wouldn't be fair to ask God to help you beat someone else. I just asked Him to make it so I wouldn't cry when I lost."

Children can sometimes have wisdom far beyond their years. This young boy didn't complain about the unfairness of not having his earthly father by his side like his peers did, nor did he ask his heavenly Father to rig the outcome of the race. Rather, he asked for the strength to face the outcome. As adults, we often ask God to make us the biggest or the best, and sometimes we ask Him to remove the struggle altogether. But sometimes, we're better off in the long run by asking God for the strength to get through the struggle. Like the young boy in this story, we have a heavenly Father by our side Who will never abandon. His strength is more than sufficient for any trial we face, and it's always available to us if we'll only take the time to ask Him for it.

In Jesus, Frank

***"I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength." -- Philippians 4:13 (NIV)***

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all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Then the whole heaven seemed to open up, the curtain of night was split like a tent, and through the opening the shepherds saw a host of angels that seemed to fill the whole sky, and they were all singing.

The shepherds ran into the town and searched for the baby. Finally they found the stable where Jesus had been born. Joseph let them see the baby and told them, "Yes! It was the sign we've been waiting for. This is the child you have come to worship. His name is Jesus, and he is indeed the Son of God. You have come, full of humble grace and now we shall rejoice as the heavens rejoiced at the birth of Mary's son. And they sang with the angels, "Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

This play was produced by Catherine Fletcher and narrated by her daughter, Karen Mack. All of the actors made their own costumes.

Carl Serkland was Joseph, Alma Farris was Mary, Gevonnia Smith was Elizabeth, Linda Lopez was the Innkeeper, and Jane Hook was the Innkeeper's daughter. Linda also doubled as a shepherd along with Mae Arney Gevonnia Smith as the other shepherds. Jane Hook doubled as the angel. Otis Farris wasn't in the play but was helpful in moving people around, substituting for others in practice and climbing up a ladder to attach the star to the ceiling.

Prayers were said for the luncheon to follow. Jean Settles had donated a 12-\* pound turkey, Mary Schoenecke roasted it and Jane Hook carved it. Wonderful!

Our next luncheon will be on January 19, so be sure to mark it on your calendar.

Jane Hook

### **CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER**

Many of us lose confidence in prayer because we do not recognize the answer.

We ask for strength, and God gives us difficulties which make us strong.

We plead for wisdom, and God sends us problems, the solution of which develops wisdom.

We plead for courage, and God gives us danger to overcome.

We ask for favors, and God gives us opportunities.

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ing to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked. "Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors

and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'"

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

## THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Before Matthias is chosen as the new disciple.. there were several elimination rounds using another sophisticated selection technique. **Acts 1:12-26**

(Continued from page 1)

everything we do. We will continue praying for them everyday right up to our Revival, March 12-15. Regardless of who we get to lead us, we are going to have a good time of fellowship and worship with the Lord Jesus. Ask the Lord about having morning Revival services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to start each day. We'll sing, pray, and share the Word at 7:00 a.m. each morning.

If you know of some ordained minister or deacon you would like to see join us for the Deacon Ordination on January 22, please let me know about them. Maybe we can send them an invitation to come join us for the Ordination Service at 5:00 p.m.

The very next Sunday evening, we plan to have "Gospel Creek" in concert at 6:00 p.m. This bluegrass band is sure to take us and all who come into the world of bluegrass mu-

sic sung and played in such a way as to make Jesus shine. We will do all we can to promote it. You do all you can to talk it up to your friends and neighbors.

Our new format for church business meeting will start January 15 as we move to having a quarterly meeting (one every three months) on the third Sunday after the morning worship. This will be the first one of the year 2006 and will allow our Finance Committee to present the new budget.

We are talking about have Sunday Evening services at 6:00 p.m. Would you come? We need the encouragement in the Lord and the fellowship among believers this would provide.

Now is also the time to sign up for Vacation Bible School, June 12-16. Contact Linda Lopez if you can help or if you plan to attend and bring your friends.

## Plan Your Spring Garden

Along with the fruits of the Spirit, here are some other things to cultivate in one's spiritual garden:

PLANT three rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash criticism
3. Squash indifference

PLANT three rows of peas:

1. Purity
2. Patience
3. Perseverance

PLANT six rows of lettuce:

1. Let us be unselfish and loyal
2. Let us be faithful to duty.
3. Let us search the scriptures.
4. Let us not be weary in well-doing.

5. Let us be obedient in all things.

6. Let us Love one another.

NO GARDEN is complete without turnips:

1. Turn up for church, prayer service, and Bible study.
2. Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult.
3. Turn up with determination to do you best for God's cause.

After planting, may you "Grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18