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Seniors Report

Twenty-four Seniors and their guests met on December 20th for their program and luncheon.

Mary Schoenecke Told us the presents under the Christmas tree were for children who had a parent in prison through an organization called "Angel Tree." She asked for prayer requests for Joanie Locke who hurt her hand; Catherine Fletcher's brother-in-law in Reno, Nevada, who is ill; Alma Farris wants prayers for her husband Otis who is very sick; a new guest; Dottie's son-in-law in Santa Cruz is ill; and Charlie Johnston who was too ill to come today and is concerned about the vandalism that has occurred on the Church property. Jack Deligans gave a prayer for all of those above.

Mary asked people to tell about their first or most memorable Christmas. Jean said she always found where her parents hid their gifts and liked to see what was in them; Anna remembers getting 5 or 6 little presents – one a tiny set of doll furniture she really enjoyed, Ellen lived in St. Helena and saw her first snow when visiting relatives in Fort Dix, New Jersey; Cec Johnston got a big stocking filled with fruit and candy, Lynn Deligans remembers her mother taking food baskets to needy people and steak to their pastor since her family ran a meat market; Joan Vargas grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey and learned at a young age that the janitor at school was Santa; Alma's children wondered why they got fruit and candy in their stockings. Her father passed away the day before Christmas and her mother wouldn't cele-



brate Christmas for 10 years after that. Jane remembered that when her ill grandmother was living with them when she was 5 years old and they had to play quietly when she was sleeping. Christmas was not always a happy time back in "the good old days." When Jack Deligans was a little boy his Dad carried him to church on his shoulders, as the snow was so deep. Roy Schoenecke remembers getting little toy cars. He had to walk three and a half miles to school when he was nine. Mary Schoenecke couldn't stand wrapped packages; she'd unwrap them and then tie them up again. Alma said the gift Otis liked best when he was a little boy was a set of soldiers and a fort made out of cardboard.

Jane Hook read the verses of the hymn *Tell Me the Story of Jesus*, written by Fanny J. Crosby in 1880.

Alma Farris read *A Letter from Jesus*.

Carl Serkland read Luke 2:1-20

We sang *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* and *Silent Night*.

Carl Serkland gave the closing prayer and the blessing for the luncheon to follow. The Johnstons gave a spiral baked ham and a big pan of sweet potatoes with toasted marshmallows.

The tables were set with white tablecloths and bouquets of red Poinsettias on two tables and pink ones on the others.

Our next luncheon will be January 17th, 2008. We're all hoping for a Happy New Year, so be sure to mark it on your calendar.

-- Jane Hook

Christmas Letter from Jesus

"Dear children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of you're predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of a pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If

you want to celebrate my birth just, GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Now, having said that let me go on.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all my followers did that, there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people

(Continued on page 2)

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are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can & may remember me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching explaining who I am in relation to you & what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 -8.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it...

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing George complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone

and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile it; could make the difference. Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes my love & Good News to those who have never heard My name. You may already know someone like that.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals & whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them (and I suspect you don't) buy some food & a few gifts & give them to the Marines, the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in me & they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Jesus

Personal Thoughts

No matter how good a year you've had in 2007, I would be willing to bet that you're looking forward to a better year in 2008. That's one of the wonders of the turning of the calendar from one year to the next: the hope that the new year will bring bigger and better blessings than the old one. Of course, as Christians we believe that blessings don't just happen all by themselves.



We worship the One Who, because of His great love for us, gives us more blessings than we could ever count, even though we don't deserve any of them. I believe God has

"Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is You, O Lord our God. Therefore our hope is in You, for You are the One who does all this." -- Jeremiah 14:22 (NIV)

even better things in store for all of us in the new year, but He does ask us to keep our eyes on Him and do His will, whatever that may be for each one of us. There is always hope in our God no matter what time of year it is, but the beginning of 2008 is as good a time as any to dedicate ourselves anew to doing wholeheartedly whatever God has for us to do and put our faith and hope in Him to lead us into greater blessings than we could ever imagine.

Bumper Sticker: God gives and forgives, man gets and forgets..

January 2008

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

Jan. 1 New Year's Day
 Jan. 6 12:20 pm Church Council
 Jan. 13 12:20 pm Fellowship Luncheon
 Jan. 17 10:45 am Seniors' Luncheon
 Jan. 20 12:20 pm Quarterly Business Meeting
 Feb ? 12:00 noon Church Challenge Bowling resumes

Weekly schedule

Sunday 9:45 am Bible Study for all ages
 Sunday 11:00 am Worship
 Tuesday 10:00 am Bible Study (not on New Years' Day)
 Saturday 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast

. **Check our website for changes and updates at Granadachurch.org**

Bowling

The Church Bowling Challenge is in its annual winter hibernation, but will return on a Saturday to be determined in February of 2008, at 12 noon. The cost is \$10 and includes 3 games of bowling and, if necessary, bowling shoes. Come and help us try to defend the perpetual trophy back for another month, or at least a donation for our church if we bowl well enough. You don't have to have any good at bowling to bowl with us. If you know which side of the ball to hold (the outside), you can be on our team. You can sign up on the sheet that will eventually be in the worship center, or contact Frank Serkland at 449-8257. As always, praying at the foul line will be permitted and encouraged.

— Frank Serkland





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THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON



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HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES.. may
God bless you in ways that are
BEYOND YOUR DREAMS!!