

PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH OF GOD

SOUTHWEST TEXAN

DECEMBER 2010

THE LETTER



FYI

- **Christmas Blast**—December 4, 2:00, HQ
- **Church Effectiveness Symposium**—January 8 at San Marcos HQ.
- SWTX leads the nation w/ 50 trained chaplains!
- **CRQ is due.**
- Daniel Sherman inducted into the Army.

Pray for...

- District Youth Director.
- Bill Hickson injured in fall; recovering at home.
- Steve Oates recovering.
- T. J. Thomas: two stints inserted in arteries.
- Melvin Clearman scheduled open heart surgery.
- Thelma Coker health.
- Debbie Mills needs job and their house to sell.
- Vardie Hopkins' daughter.



Ruth went to her mailbox and there was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening, but then she looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter:

Dear Ruth: I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit.

Love Always, Jesus

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer." With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner." She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least."

She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk... leaving Ruth with grand total twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

"Hey lady, can you help us, lady?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags. "Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us, lady, we'd really appreciate it."

Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him."

"Yeah, well, okay lady, I understand. Thanks anyway." The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley.

As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my

guest." She handed the man her grocery bag.

"Thank you lady. Thank you very much!" "Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering.

"You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street... without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

"Thank you lady! Thank you very much!"

Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day."

Dear Ruth: It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you, too, for the beautiful coat.

Love Always, Jesus

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

CHURCH EFFECTIVENESS SYMPOSIUM—JANUARY 8

District Discipleship Ministries will host a C.E. Symposium at the Headquarters in San Marcos January 8th, from 1am to 4pm. Director Charles Bledsoe has made it as convenient as possible to drive in and back home the same day, and still get a full day of informative sessions and workshops. You will be inspired by the practical insight of each presenter. Ple-

nary sessions include District Direction (Bishop Norvell), Leadership Development (Charles Bledsoe), Teaching Teachers (Sharon Sarles), Administrative Planning (David Edwards), and workshops targeting Youth, Men, Women, and Children, and concluding with a Q & A session. Its been way too long since we've had one. Be sure to put it on your



calendar and plan to attend.

EVANGELIST



We're coming out with CD's of messages I have ministered. Titles of the first ones are:

1. *Taking it to the Next Level*
 2. *Grace in God's Sight*
 3. *God's Good Work in You*
- \$10 each. Send requests to:
Bill Pierce Evangelistic Assoc.
 Box 90043 Austin, TX 78709
www.billpiercee.org

THANK YOU FOR GIVING "IT'S SETTLED" OFFERINGS

\$10,000 Coastal Bend Family Worship Center, Aransas Pass

\$5,200 Gospel Lighthouse, Smithville

\$3,000 Trinity Church, Cuero

\$1,000 Victory Christian Fellowship, Hamilton

\$1,000 New Life Outreach, Pleasanton

\$1,000 Austin Revival Center, Austin

\$1,000 Victory Chapel, McGregor

\$500 Trinity Chapel, Austin

\$650 North Pointe Church, Copperas Cove

\$200 Full Gospel Assembly, San

Angelo

\$200 Abundant Life, Victoria

\$100 Full Gospel Assembly, Waco

\$100 River of Life, Luling

\$100 Calvary Temple, Gatesville

\$200 De Leon Christian Fellowship, De Leon

\$100 Agape Fellowship, Ingleside

\$100 Trinity Christian Center, Beeville

\$100 SWTX Women's Ministry

\$25 Open Door Christian Fellowship, San Antonio

\$25 West Texas Christian Fellowship, Carlsbad

\$1,220 John/Marilyn Norvell

\$1,050 Robert/Sherri Thomet

\$1,000 Billie Sue Thomas

\$1,000 Ronald Bowden

\$600 Al/Jean Creel

\$500 Jason/Becky Norvell

\$500 Eileen Jayne

\$500 Melvin/Rosalee Clearman

\$500 Les/Pansy Crawford

\$500 **Dan/Delores Chapman**

\$300 Tim Baylor

\$250 Bill Pierce

\$250 Billy/Gail Sanders

\$250 Rick/Roberta Lasly

\$250 Phil/Darlene Hurst

\$200 Kenneth Mills

\$200 Aletha Webb

\$100 Robert Martin

\$100 Jim Moore

\$100 Aaron Jayne

\$100 Gilbert Donald

\$100 Jack/Margie Davis

\$100 Salomon Avila

\$100 Louise Hardt

\$100 **Harold/Deborah Irvin**

\$100 **Bruce/Carol Cessna**

\$100 Rachel Valencia

\$50 Rob/Suzanne Turner

\$50 Carlton/Mitzi Wetherell

\$25 Elton/Judy Cody

\$10 Mylon Avery

Bold denotes November givers.
We're waiting to hear from you.

LOCAL PCG CHURCH HOSTS AREA-WIDE SERVICE

Bishop Norvell was honored to preach the 5th Sunday Community Service in Brownwood which happened to be on Halloween. Seven pastors and nine churches were represented at New Beginnings and well over \$700 was received for Brown County Adoption. Pastor Kelly Crenshaw reports:

The Lord has been doing some marvelous things lately around here. We have had several healings and miracles; everything from migraines to arthritis, heart disease to cancer, depression and hearing loss. One case of a man that had a cerebral hemorrhage, he had been in chronic pain for over

two years, and the Lord healed him on the spot and then saved him. One young lady had been brutally raped as a child and her womb was damaged to the degree that doctors said that she would never bear children. Her report from the doctor now is that her womb is fine!! Also, several

have been saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Our numbers are increasing and new families are starting to connect with us once again. Our prison ministry is bringing anywhere from 10-12 to as many as 25-30 a month surrendering to Christ at each prison service.

YOUTH MINISTRIES – DYD JASON NORVELL - WWW.SWTXYOUTH.COM

We finally got a car replacement, while I have been recouping from the collision. It's a 2001 Saturn L200 with 140,000 miles, and we just replaced the fuel pump. We would really like to thank you all for your prayers and special love offerings.

Upon my return from Joplin and just before Thanksgiving, the company shut down the office where I work. So, I'm without gainful employment.

But it is a chance to be in **full-time youth ministry**. Pray for direction! We are expecting bigger and better things in the days ahead.

Hope you were able to attend the **CHRISTMAS BLAST** Saturday, December 4th, where National Youth Directors, Joe & Teena Skiles, were our special speakers. We'll have pics in next month's newsletter.

REGIONAL ILD ENCOUNTER is January 14-15 in Jefferson

City, MO—a great opportunity for young leaders to connect with other young leaders. If any of your youth or youth leaders would like to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so we can get them registered. We're taking a group, so if you need more details just give us a call (we sent out a flier last month). The only costs will be for room and meals. It'll be an experience that'll change their lives. *Impact Leadership Development*



Wishing you all a very blessed and **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

HEARTBEAT—INDIAN MISSIONS CHRISTMAS SACKS

This time of year is very exciting for us—we are preparing gift sacks to take to the Indian Reservations as we do every Christmas. We were able to take 120 gift sacks last year because three churches from our District helped. Can you imagine how many children we could reach if we had all of

our churches participate in this project? It amazes us that something so little means so much to the children on the reservations. Pray about being a part of this blessing. Even the smallest gift is put to use.

CHRISTMAS SACK:

Small white trash bags

- Hard Christmas candy
- Tooth brushes and paste
- Bar soap and shampoo
- Small stuffed animals
- Small toys for boys & girls
- Paper, pencils, crayons
- Scissors, small glue, ribbon
- BIBLES and a little note to let the children know how much Jesus loves them.**

Please contact Jim or Melissa Ogden if you can give a small donation or certain items or even build the sacks in full. Whatever you do is surely appreciated. Call us at (325) 212-8689 or 212-8527, or email jmogden@hotmail.com or write 2829 Jomar, San Angelo, TX 76901. Bless you.

IMPACT APPALACHIA, December 9-12! Share Christ in the schools (Hazel Green, KY; Craigsville, VA; Pineville, WV) by giving gifts, food boxes, and home/health care boxes to the poorest of the poor. Give hope to the hopeless. Call District Office for more info.

BEST MINISTER'S ADVANCE EVER—2010

It was the best! Four couples came on motorcycles to enjoy the perfect weather. We had a great time strolling in Fredericksburg and especially at Rockbox Theater.

Precious fellowship and refreshing in the Spirit. Randy Binion of *Kingdom Life Minis-*

tries presented information on membership services and volunteers; and words cannot describe the powerful word that Kevin Powers shared on "Recovery of Breath" or Jonathan Rhodes' encouragement not to quit in "The Scent of Sacrifice". If you missed it... you REALLY missed it!

Among the attendees were SW TX Ministers and spouses: Tim & Laura Baylor, Joe & Shirley Cheesman, Melvin & Rosalee Clearman, Al & Jean Creel, Ray & Anita Helms, Albert & Lawana Hernandez, Bill & Marilyn Hickson, Joann Jackson, Aaron & Bobbie Jayne, Bob & Eileen Jayne,

James & Towanda Martin, Robert & Velma Martin, Claire Newman, John & Marilyn Norvell, Jimmy & Melissa Ogden, Kevin & Veronica Powers, Louis Roos, Rick & Laurel Schmidt, Mark & Stacey Swartz, T. J. & Billie Sue Thomas, and Rick & Aletha Webb. Most voted for a 2011 cruise!

www.swtx-pcg.org

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Pentecostal Church of God**

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**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

Jack Holderby	8
Marilyn Hickson	10
Thomas Roberson	11
Thelma Coker	14
Bob Jayne	15
Jerrel Martinez	16
Les Crawford	23
Clay Cale	25

CHURCH IS BETTER THAN DQ

The Lockhart church is three doors north of Dairy Queen on Hwy 183. The play on words (the Lord's Day and DQ sundef) drew attention at the San Marcos Section fellowship meeting.



ANNIVERSARIES

Mr & Mrs Ray Keasler	3
Mr & Mrs James Martin	11
Mr & Mrs Don Allen	18
Mr & Mrs John Norvell	18
Mr & Mrs Harold Irvin	19
Mr & Mrs. Bill Hickson	20
Mr & Mrs Joe Cheesman	24
Mr & Mrs Aaron Jayne	31

DEER JOHN, GONE HUNTING



Marilyn Hickson with first deer of the season.

Bill & Marilyn Hickson left Minister's Advance early enough for Marilyn to bag a deer on the first day of deer season Saturday morning. "I went to the blind about 7:15 am and the big buck stepped out around 7:30 am. I didn't even have time to get cold! I am so thankful!"

WISDOM

"Just want to say God is bigger than any problem u could ever face in this life, and he won't put on u more than u can stand. Thank Him every day for the blessings an gifts he has given U. He is definitely the Constant in your LIFE. He will never let U down, God Bless!" Troy Gratehouse Facebook post 7/26/10

**MINISTERS
ON CALL**

- Gus Chupe**, Seguin (830) 386-0101
- Les Crawford**, Beeville (361) 358-5499
- Ray Keasler**, Granite Shoals (830) 798-4019
- Jim/Melissa Ogden**, San Angelo (325) 212-8689
- Bill Pierce**, Austin (719) 821-6906
- Louis Roos**, Austin (512) 551-2747
- Carlton Wetherell**, Rockport (361) 790-7610
- Doug White, Jr.**, Austin (512) 228-8048
- Jack/Genevive Holderby**, Schertz (210) 788-8055

Merry CHRISTmas

Many traditions have grown up around Christmas—some good and some not so good. Jesus may not have been born on December 25th, but does it matter? The important thing is that He WAS born, and that's something worth celebrating!

Philippians 1:18 NIV, "But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way,

whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice."

This is the way to look at Christmas: Christ is being remembered - by the world. Yes, there is too much commercialism. And, yes, Jesus is often forgotten in all the rush and hubbub of the season. But how wonder-

ful that the largest celebration of the year is centered around the coming to earth of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is something to be glad about! Let's not be sucked in to fighting about the negatives of Christmas. Let's emphasize Jesus, and try to remind others that Jesus is the Reason for us to celebrate.

