

Southwest Texan

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DID YOU KNOW?

Court date: Mar. 22

Joe Cheesman diabetic palsy; double vision in left eye.

Jack Holderby four week recovery from gall bladder surgery.

Thomas Lawson has had mini-strokes.

Prayer? Call Jerry Ward 361-937-7474
Healing is coming!

The District Office needs your signed CRQ to mail your 2010 credential card

Bishop's family is grateful for district family that showed such love at Christmas time. Thank you for everything.
John, Marilyn, Amy



Regional Chaplains Training/Certification in Early at Trinity Chapel, February 4,5,6. Begins 7 pm on 4th, all day Friday, dismiss noon Saturday. \$100 fee includes materials.

The Tablecloth *reported to be a true story*

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest, a driving rain-storm, hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow.

An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, ladders, etc. to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry.

The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials **EBG** were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the

woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth".

The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

Israel Trip

Brother and Sister Norvell are truly grateful for those at District Convention who responded to Bishop Scott's appeal and gave or pledged to give toward their trip to Israel with other PCG leaders in February.

Bishops (SWT John Norvell) and Navigational Pastors Network (SWT Bob Jayne) are on the list to go. Your giving will help make it possible. Send designated check to the district office. Bless you.



District Leaders' Christmas Dinner at the parsonage:
 Jason & Becky
 John & Marilyn
 Dan & Delores
 Bob & Eileen

Our Filipino people are recovering from typhoons and floods. Joan Parkman reports from the Philippines: "We thought that the flood we experienced on the campus was already tragic, but we took relief goods to a few of our churches and saw that their experience was worse. Houses and churches had water up to their ceilings. Almost all of their belongings were soaked, property damaged, and schools closed. We really felt moved with extreme pity. The victims were very bright and happy to see us as we distributed the relief goods..."

Christmas is all about Giving

New Beginnings in Brownwood sponsored the largest Jeff "Bodine" Goodman Memorial Toy Drive in history. At any one time you would have seen 30 to 40 motorcycles in the parking lot. About 300 attended the service where they gave Christmas gifts to 226 children and 89 families (without an expected grant). Parents expressed their tearful appreciation for the gifts

otherwise). These kids got bags full of toys, plus door prizes, i.e. new bicycles, \$50 bills, etc. They even gave away a scooter for the biggest turnout ever, reports



Pastor Kelly Crenshaw. Then all day Christmas Eve they took hygiene/gift bags to the homeless and needy, and toys to a few more families, plus 35 foster kids, and over 50 orphans in Mexico. A conservative guess totaled well over 300 kids! This was our biggest and best year!

for their children (who wouldn't have had a Christmas present

Coastal Bend Family Worship Center in Aransas Pass put on a "Rock Stompin Christmas", directed by Steve Jayne, for a Sunday night 385 packed house (unconventional, but well received). See Part 1 & 2 on **You Tube**.

North Pointe Child Care in Copperas Cove set a new record with 344 people attending the K4, K5, 1st Grade Christmas play, "The King is Coming to Town." They soon discovered that it's not King Kong, King Tut or the King of Rock 'n Roll... it's the King of Kings—King Jesus!

Norvells gladly participated in Christmas service and dinner at Full Gospel Assembly in Waco, and enjoyed Christmas program at Victory Chapel in McGregor; especially *Chaquita Banana* and the *Three Juans*. Feliz Navidad!

Standing room only at Brownwood Christmas



A couple that had signed up for our Toy Drive wound up in church two Sundays ago. After the service the dad brought their little child to be prayed for. They said that all the doctors had said that this child was autistic. No emotion, except rage; never played, never smiled, just cried and screamed all the time; didn't respond to affection – all the signs said autism. We prayed; God moved. I saw that couple a few days later and they were just beaming. They said the very next day after we all prayed, that the little boy was perfectly normal! When the early childhood development folks retested him, they said (and I quote), "Only a miracle could do this." They tested him; the therapist tested him; the child psychologist tested him; and every one of them said the same thing: "THIS IS A MIRACLE." "THIS ISN'T THE SAME CHILD."

Youth Ministries Dir. Jason Norvell

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas. We had an excellent Christmas with family in Texas and Arkansas—had a *white* Christmas with 4-inches of snow! Made it home safely and working hard on upcoming Youth events for 2010.

In January we have the **Connect Tour**—January 22, 23, 29, 30 and February 5, 6. Your sectional leader will have the location, date and time for your section. The

Connect Tour is a time for youth to connect with God, the District Youth Director and each other!

February 19-20 is the Youth Department sponsored **Married Couples Retreat**. There is no age limit on the retreat because every married couple regardless of age still needs a time of refreshing.

Don't forget **Teen Talent Expo** March 27; and checkout the new website: www.swtxyouth.com.

A Merry

A blonde goes to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?" The clerk says, "What denominations?" The blonde says, "God help us. Has it come to this? Give me 22 Pentecostal, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 6 Baptist."



Oral Roberts, 1918-2009

TULSA, Okla., December 15 – Dr. Oral Roberts, a legendary evangelist who rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most influential Christian leaders of the 20th century, died today in Newport Beach, CA, due to complications from pneumonia. The founder of Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association and Oral Roberts University was 91 and was known for sayings such as *God Is a Good God, Expect a Miracle, Release Your*

Faith, and Plant Your Seed for a Harvest.

Granville Oral Roberts was born into poverty in Bebee, OK, on January 24, 1918. Bedfast at 17, Roberts was miraculously healed of tuberculosis and stuttering at a revival meeting. "If a former stuttering, tuberculosis-ridden young Indian boy in an obscure county in Oklahoma can



see the invisible and do the impossible—and still do it—so can you!" Roberts once said.

Roberts conducted 300+ crusades on six continents and personally laid hands in prayer on more than 2 million people. He wrote 130+ books, including such classics as "If You Need Healing, Do These Things," and "The Fourth Man." His book "The Miracle of Seed Faith" has more than 8 million copies in circulation.



We mourn the passing of yet another general, Tulsa Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty



Bert Clendennen

Rev. B. H. Clendennen of Beaumont, Texas went home to be with his Lord Sunday, December 13th. Brother Clendennen, 87, was founder of the School of Christ International, the curriculum used extensively by the Pentecostal Church of God Indian Missions Department.



Melton Recovers

November 16, we visited a top neurosurgeon in Flint, Michigan for an exam. He ordered a cat-scan and gave a very positive report of the healing of my head bone, blood vessels and brain. I am truly thankful to God that I can walk and move normally, I can think,

I speak normally both English and Spanish, and I can remember both before the fall and new information. Join with me in giving the Glory to God. None of this could have happened without God's divine intervention.

Les & Charlene Melton



Missionary to Honduras and overseer of Central America's 400+ churches and two Bible Institutes.



January Birthday/Anniversary

Stacey Swartz	6	Mr. & Mrs. Vardie Hopkins	3
Sabrina Grubbs	8	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Donald	19
Jack Davis	10		
T. J. Thomas	13		
Lawrence Kirkpatrick	14		
Robert Martin	19		
Richard Brinson	27		
Dan Chapman	29		



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Ministers Available

Gus Chupe—Seguin	(830) 386-0101
Donna Classen—Beeville	(361) 343-2844
Jack & Genevive Holderby—Schertz	(210) 722-0036
Ray Keasler—Granite Shoals	(830) 798-4019
Jim & Melissa Ogden—San Angelo	(325) 212-8689
Bill Pierce—Austin	(719) 821-6906
Jesse Webb—San Angelo	(325) 763-5512
Carlton Wetherell—Rockport	(361) 790-7610
Doug White, Jr.—Victoria	(361) 489-9032
Ben Carter—Lockhart	(512) 213-8982

Pray for our great Christian nation of America which was founded on God and on the Bible; this nation where the founding fathers embraced Jesus as their Savior and Christianity as their religion and expected it to be the religion of their descendants. America has four great blessings: 1) She is a friend of and blesses Israel. 2) She is blessed as a peacemaker. 3) She is about the Great Commission and supplies 76% of the world's missionaries. 4) She was dedicated to God by the founders of the nation. Terry Mize



Southwest Texas District
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A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

