

# SAINTS ALIVE!

January 2007

Shenandoah Congregation

## Test God's Words

Recently, I was reminded of one of my favorite scriptures. It is a scripture that puts the ball in our court and gives us great latitude for creativity.

**Doctrine and Covenants, Section 155:7** Know, O my people, the time for hesitation is past. The earth, my creation, groans for the liberating truths of my gospel which have been given for the salvation of the world. **Test my words. Trust in my promises for they have been given for your assurance and will bear you up in times of doubt.** Be not overly concerned with method as you go forth to witness in my name. **There are many techniques for proclaiming my word which may be used as needs and circumstances dictate.**

Probably what I like is the confidence God shows us. God says "Test my words" almost as though He thinks they'll work!! Well, they will work. The reader still has their agency to believe, but God gives us a challenge that He knows will not fail: to test His words.

Our church needs to be more inviting to others. Yes, I do believe that this includes the facility's physical appearance, but far more so, it applies to us literally inviting more people, and with better invitations. Once invited, we absolutely need to be God's instruments of delivering love and ministry.

Recently, we entered into a missionary project with the Bandera Congregation. In this project, a group of dedicated persons has agreed to uphold our congregations in prayer daily. At the same time everyday, this group will present the two congregations to God with a sincere request that wonderful things will happen to both congregations. Because they pray for it, wonderful things **will** happen to both congregations.

As another part of Shenandoah's missionary effort in each service we are able, we plan an **Invitation** as a part of our worship. This may be part of the speaker's sermon, it may be presented by the presider, one of the pastorate, or someone else. During the Invitation, we will offer to everyone in attendance an overt invitation to become a member of our church family or deepen their association with our church family. Jesus happening in my life is the best thing that ever happened to me. We all should feel this way, and feel it without embarrassment or apology. If we do feel that this is so, how can we not invite others into the same Joy? Invite people to join this church family or a church family where they live. Invite! This year, I challenge each of us to take three steps in addition to the things we have done in the past. These three steps can assure that we see and experience the working of the Spirit in our midst, especially as we invite others to join with us.

1. Each week, pray that everyone that enters our doors is overwhelmed with a sense of Love.
2. Every time that you participate in any service, in any way, no matter how simple you might feel your contribution; prepare as though what you present might be exactly what another person feels is missing in their life.
3. Pray to God for a testimony of Him working in the life of our congregation and especially of the ministry we bring to guests.

In Love for this New Year, Carol, Jim, and Carol

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace.  
11910 Vance Jackson, San Antonio, TX 78230. Phone 210-696-0772  
Pastorate: Jim Burdick, Carol White and Carol Burdick  
Newsletter Editors: Lisa Talcott [lisa\\_talcott@hotmail.com](mailto:lisa_talcott@hotmail.com) & Lafe Williams [ehwill@hotmail.com](mailto:ehwill@hotmail.com)  
[www.CoastalBendMC.org](http://www.CoastalBendMC.org) [www.CofChrist.org](http://www.CofChrist.org)

# **PLANNING FOR WORLD CONFERENCE**

The spiritual preparation period for Conference coincides with Lent: a season of reflection, repentance, and expectation. Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 21, a daily meditation for World Conference preparation will be available on the church's Web site at [www.CofChrist.org/wc2007/](http://www.CofChrist.org/wc2007/) and in the February and March issues of the *Herald*. In addition, each Sunday during Lent, the online *Worship Resources* will offer specific suggestions for creating worship moments that invite everyone in your congregation to make their hearts and minds ready for God's presence as we prepare for World Conference.

## **KEYBOARD CAMP**

As a follow up to the "organ camp" at Graceland last year, plans have been made for a keyboard camp this summer. Music students will have the opportunity to take both organ and piano lessons. The camp will be on the Graceland University campus from July 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13. David Pickering, organ professor at Graceland will again direct the activity. For more details and registration information feel free to contact Professor Pickering at 641/784-5082 (work) or [dpickering@graceland.edu](mailto:dpickering@graceland.edu).

## **FINANCIAL ADVICE AVAILABLE**

A 13 week course will be taught at the Pasadena Congregation on "How to get out of debt and stay out of debt." The video-based classes will be every Sunday starting on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 -4:30 pm and will go for 13 weeks. The cost is \$89.95 per person, but another member of your household can also attend at no extra charge. If you are interested, contact Jonathan Coit at [jlhecoit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlhecoit@sbcglobal.net) or at 832-493-2125 for more information. You can go to <http://daveramsey.com> and look at the link for "Financial Peace University."

## **MORE HERALD HOUSE CHANGES**

Connecting people to resources that inspire and help them to live out the mission of the church is imperative. Book stewards have offered this ministry in many congregations for decades and continue to do so today. However, changes are being made in the way we will pay for items from Herald House. Effective Dec. 22, 2006 items must be prepaid by cash, check, or credit card only. Information for book stewards and others who promote current resources in congregations is being published in the monthly *10-Minute News Report* (posted regularly on Shenandoah's bulletin board). This newsletter will continue to regularly include announcements about free and for-sale items such as books, *Herald* articles, Web materials, videos, and more items so book stewards can help people gain access to the resources that connect them with the church's mission. The ministry of book stewards is very much appreciated. Their efforts are vital in supporting the church as we focus on sharing the peace of Jesus Christ in our congregations, communities, and the world.

## **Santa Didn't Forget the Children**

Shenandoah Congregation collected gifts and donations from its members in December so that we could present Christmas gifts to the Bellaire Hispanic Mission on the southwest side of San Antonio. Edgar Landeros of the Bellaire Mission will transport the presents to Matamoros and Reynosa and distribute them to needy children. The Crafty Ladies dedicated their December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to the task of wrapping the gifts and had a great time! They indicated on each gift tag what the appropriate age and sex of the recipient should be, and then Reta Tucker and Pat Campbell delivered the pile of gifts. Santa's helpers even thought ahead enough to set aside some of the money to help defray Edgar's fuel expenses on the long trip.

## **BE A PART OF WORLD VILLAGE**

The Coastal Bend Mission Center has an opportunity to participate in the World Village at World Conference. If you would like to assist in the planning and preparation of a booth for the World Village please contact Mark Euritt (meuritt@austin.rr.com or 512-567-1581).

### **News from the Pews**

Jim and Carol attended a Burdick family Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento, California. Seventy-five people came to the four-hour reunion and enjoyed a great afternoon of food, "Fish Pond" games for the little ones, and an opportunity for each adult to give a review of the past year. The party was held at the Oak Grove Congregation. On Sunday Jim preached at the 11:00 worship service; he'd been a member of this congregation when he lived in Sacramento and he/they reconnected and played "catch-up" on the past 14 years. Sacramento was about 10 degrees cooler than the temperatures here at home; it seems no matter where we travel, coming home to San Antonio always means warmer weather!

### **Shenandoah Carolers**

Approximately 30 members of the Shenandoah Congregation met at the church on Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm. After warming up our voices and listening to Christmas readings delivered by Marilyn McCrimmon, we drove to a nearby nursing home and sang several Christmas carols to the residents. We had children, youth and older singers in our group who blended their voices in song, and the residents were very appreciative of our efforts to bring them a little holiday cheer.

After the singing we returned to the fellowship hall and enjoyed a meal of sandwiches, chips, cookies and punch. We all enjoyed the evening of fellowship with each other and also the chance to do something for others.

## **January Birthdays**

8--Ginger Walker	19-Jane McGinnis
9--Opal Dorow	20-Amanda Workmon
11-Heidi Workmon	21-Audrey & Addison Cole
12-Richard Vorhes	27-Lauren Loveless
17-Richard Cole	28-Carol Burdick
18-Jerry Thomason	

## **Sionito Work Party Dates**

Lots of opportunities exist to help improve and maintain Camp Sionito. Check out these dates, and contact Paul Plummer or Dalton Klaus for more information: January 13 & 14, February 10 & 11, March 10 & 11

## **New Position**

World Church Headquarters has an opening for the position of Congregational Support Minister with Youth Ministry Emphasis in the Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho area. If you are interested and need more information, please see the New Position Description Form posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.