

# The Central Messenger

Volume 300, Issue 12

December, 2008

San Jose Central  
Seventh-Day  
Adventist Church

## Pastor's Corner by Pastor Tony Rodriguez



### Inside this issue:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Boundless Grace<br>Free To All     | 2 |
| Health Nugget                      | 2 |
| 20th Annual Na-<br>tional AIDS Day | 3 |
| Church Calendar                    | 4 |

We are truly blessed to be in the truth. Our faith is based on the Bible and the Bible is truth. We have come from different places in our respective walks of faith to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the remnant of Bible prophecy. The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that have been preached for years are being fulfilled right before our eyes and it fills us with excitement in the midst of the turmoil that we see in the world. Our faith is built on truth, not lies. It's built on the Bible, not opinions. It's built on Jesus, not traditions of man. I can continue to go on about our faith as it compares us to others, but that's not good enough.

Doctrinally speaking no other church can challenge the truths that we as a world church hold, but let's see what the Bible says. Why should we look at the Bible says on this

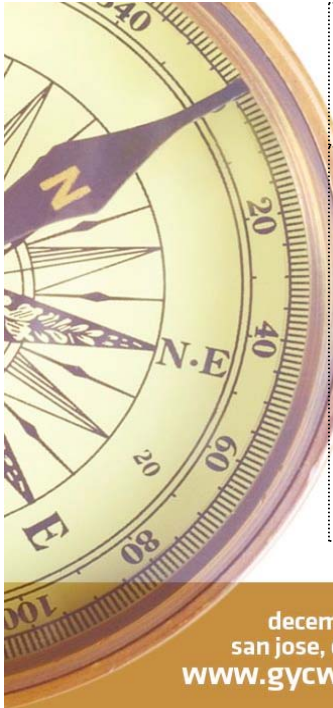
matter? Because when we compare ourselves to others, it's always biased, rarely is it objective. John 18:37 says .... "everyone who is of the truth hears my voice". That's quite the statement that Jesus makes because we can be in the truth and yet not hear Jesus' voice. Am I contradicting the Bible? That's not what I'm saying. We may be in the truth doctrinally, but what about the truth as it relates to following Jesus and surrendering our will to Him?

It would seem second nature if we are in the truth that we'd listen to Jesus' voice. But those that listen to God sometimes are not in the truth. We may know the truth, but knowing the truth and being of the truth are not one in the same. There are many that know the truth but do not follow Jesus and therefore are not of the truth. Likewise are there some who follow Jesus and are of

the truth.

The difference with knowing the truth/ being in the truth and being of the truth is this: am I totally of Jesus and what the Bible says? Have I given my life to Jesus and allowed His Word to guide my life and let His Spirit to change me? These are the questions that we must ask ourselves each and every day. We can always look better than that other person who isn't an Adventist or even my fellow brother or sister at church, but when we submit our lives to the One who is the Truth, the Way and the Life then we are truly given the example to follow and emulate.

The next time we are tempted to think that we are more than the next person let us "pick on someone our own size". For He is so much better than we are.



## Generation of Youth for Christ 2008

Are you a young person looking for a closer walk with Jesus? Do you want to learn to go beyond theory and sermonizing into the beautiful reality of a life tangibly imprinted with the character of Christ? Then Generation of Youth for Christ 2008 (GYC) is the place for you to be! This 5-day event will be held at the San Jose Convention Center from December 17 - 21, 2008. You'll hear inspiring speakers, meet new friends, and receive opportunities for outreach or missionary experiences. Find additional information and registration online at <http://www.gycweb.org>

[generationofyouthforchrist2008](http://www.gycweb.org)

december 17-21  
san jose, california  
[www.gycweb.org](http://www.gycweb.org)

for this  
purpose 

## Health Nugget



Most people enjoy better health while eating two meals a day than three; others, under their existing circumstances, may require something to eat at supper-time; but this meal should be very light. Let no one think himself a criterion for all—that every one must do exactly as he does.

- *Counsels on Diet and Food*,  
p. 176

## Boundless Grace Free to All By A.T. Jones

“Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” Eph. 4:7. The measure of the gift of Christ is “all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” This is true whether viewed as the measure of the gift

which God made in giving Christ, or as the measure of the gift which Christ himself gave. For the gift that God gave is his only begotten Son, and in “him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Therefore, from this standpoint, the measure of the gift of Christ being only the measure of the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and this being only the measure of the grace that is given to every one of us, it follows that unto every one of us is given grace without measure, simply boundless grace.

Viewed from the measure of the gift in which Christ himself gives to us, it is the same; because “he gave himself for us;” he gave himself for our sins, and in this he gave himself *to us*. And as in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and as he gave himself, then the measure of the gift of Christ on his own part is also only the measure of the fullness of the Godhead bodily. It therefore follows that from this standpoint also, the measure of grace that is given to every one of us is only the measure of the fullness of the Godhead, that is, simply immeasurable.

Thus in whatever way it is viewed, the plain word of the Lord is that unto every one of us he has given grace to the measure of the fullness of the Godhead bodily; that is boundless, immeasurable grace—all the grace he has. This is good. But it is just the Lord, it is just like the Lord to do that; for he is good.

And this boundless grace is all given, given freely, to “*every one* of us.” To *us* it is. To you and me, just as we are. And that is good. We need just that much grace to make us what the Lord wants us to be. And he is just so kind as to give it all to us freely, that we may be indeed just what he wants us to be.

The Lord wants every one of us to be saved, and that with the very fullness of salvation. And therefore he has given to every one of us the very fullness of grace, because it is grace that brings the salvation. For it is written, “The grace of God *that bringeth salvation* hath appeared to all men.” Titus 2:11. Thus the Lord wants all to be saved, and therefore he gave all of his grace, bringing salvation to all. The marginal reading of this text tells it that way, and it is just as true as the reading in the verse itself. Here it is: “The grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men, hath appeared.” All the grace of God is given freely to every one, bringing salvation to all. Whether all or any one will receive it, that is another question. What we are studying now is the truth and the fact that God *has given* it. Having given it all, he is clear, even though men may reject it.

The Lord wants us to be perfect: and so it is written: “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in

## Boundless Grace .. (continued)

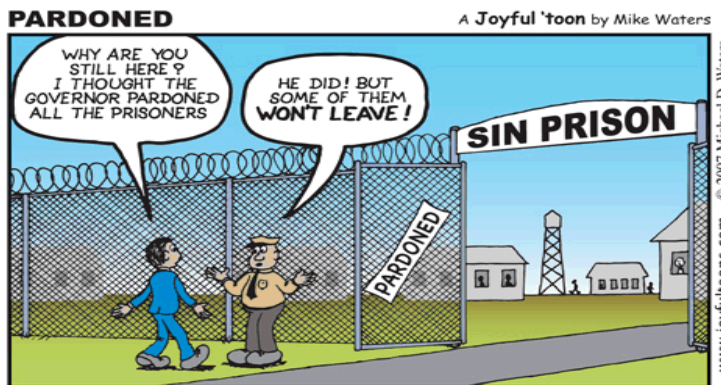
heaven is perfect.” Desiring that we shall be perfect, he has given us, every one, all the grace that he has, bringing the fullness of his salvation, that every man may be presented perfect in Christ Jesus. The very purpose of this gift of his boundless grace is that we may be made *like Jesus*, who is the image of God. Even so it is written: “Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ,...for the perfecting of the saints;...till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a *perfect man*, unto the measure of the stature of *the fullness* of Christ.”

Do you want to be like Jesus? Then receive the grace that he has so fully and so freely given. Receive it in the measure in which *he has given it*, not in the measure in which you think you deserve it. Yield yourself to it, that it may work in you and for you the wondrous purpose for which it is given, and it will do it. It will make you like Jesus. It will accomplish the purpose and the wish of him who has given it. “Yield yourselves unto God.” “I beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”

-RH April 17, 1894

## December Birthday Celebrants

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Kelly Manivanh | 13 Misty Hillsman |
| 2 Mary Varela    | 26 Esther Tablang |
| 3 Johnny Toman   | 26 Robin Celaya   |
| 5 Matt Chavarria | 28 Debbie         |
| 7 Zlatko Benko   | Portales          |
| 11 Danny Barraza | 26 Dane           |



having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; COL 2:13,14 NIV

## ADRA offers resources for 20th annual National AIDS Day

### 15 million children around the world infected with HIV

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) will commemorate the 20th annual World AIDS Day, December 1, with the 2008 ADRA World AIDS Day kit, containing information and resources about the global AIDS pandemic and tips for communities working toward eradication of the disease.

The ADRA World AIDS Day kit contains a World AIDS Day Guide, with testimonies from people living with HIV/AIDS, important facts, and ways to get involved. Also included is a newsletter or church bulletin insert, a pulpit announcement, and a poster to raise awareness of World AIDS Day in local churches, schools, community centers, and businesses.



"With these resources, ADRA is empowering every person to advocate in their own communities on behalf of the millions of people around the world who have been [affected] by HIV and AIDS," said Hearly Mayr, director for public awareness at ADRA International.

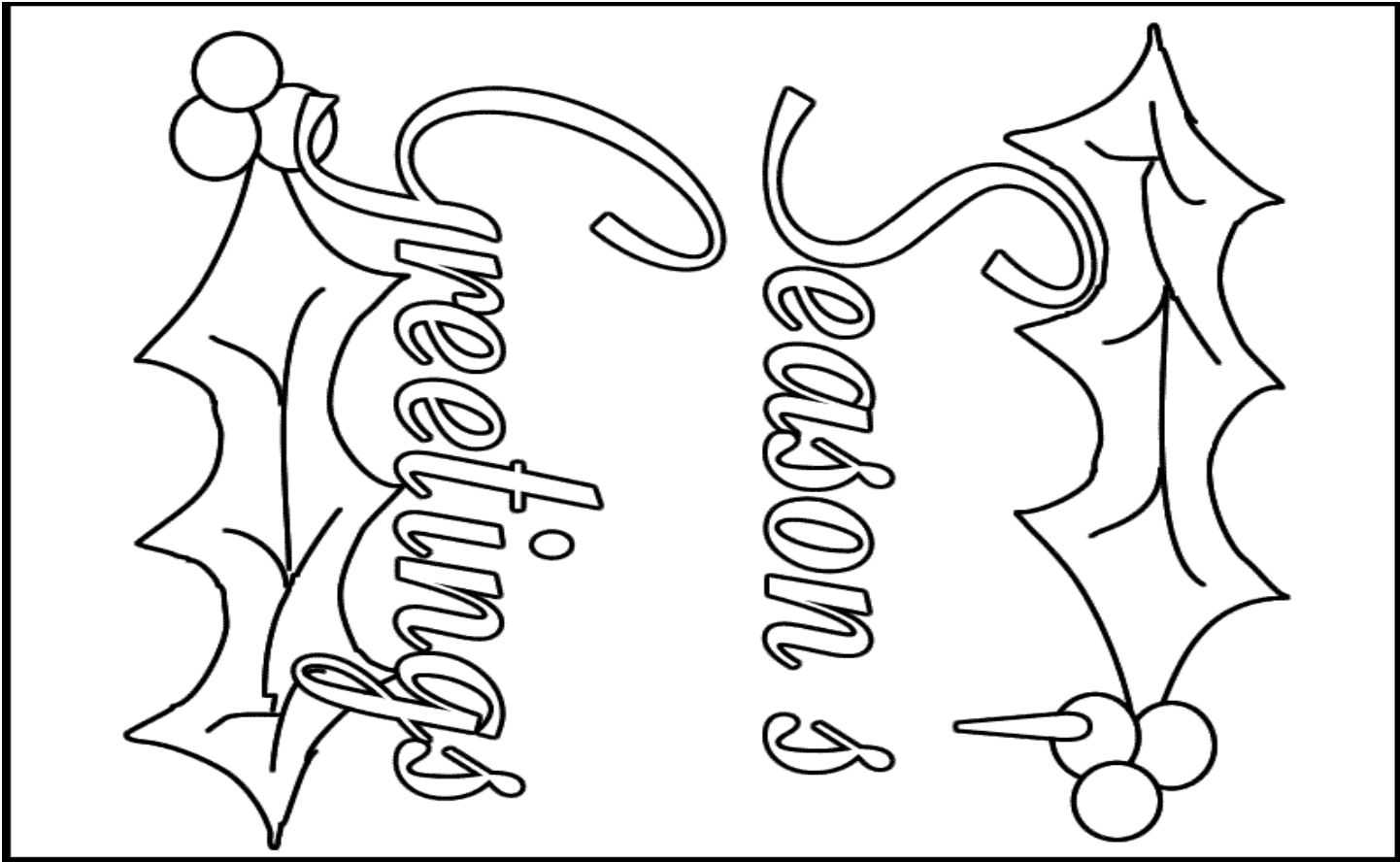
Around the world, an estimated 33 million are currently living with HIV. Of that number, more than 15 million are children under the age of 15. World AIDS Day, which was first created by the World Health Organization and the United Nations General Assembly in 1988, has brought increased awareness about the disease, combating prejudices, and providing increased understanding worldwide.

ADRA is offering free commemorative World AIDS Day ribbons that can be worn to show support for the cause. Both ribbons and kits can be ordered at [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org), by email at [RibbonsofHope@adra.org](mailto:RibbonsofHope@adra.org), or by phone at 1.800.424.ADRA (2372). Resources are available in the U.S. and Canada while supplies last. Copies of ADRA's 2009 Really Useful Gift Catalog are also available upon request. The catalog features a collection of development projects including HIV and AIDS initiatives in Ghana, Liberia, and Swaziland.

Source: Adventist News Network by Nadia McGill

# December 2008

| Sun                          | Mon                            | Tue                                  | Wed                             | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                              | <b>1</b><br>7pm—Elders Meeting | <b>2</b><br>7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small  | <b>3</b><br>7pm—Prayer Meeting  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b> Sunset: 4:50pm<br>Sunset Vesper’s at Renteria Home  | <b>6</b> Sunset: 4:50pm<br>9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer<br>SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.<br>2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class<br>4pm—Seven-Up Evening of Talent and Games |
| <b>7</b>                     | <b>8</b>                       | <b>9</b><br>7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small  | <b>10</b><br>7pm—Prayer Meeting | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b> Sunset: 4:50pm<br>Sunset Vesper’s at Renteria Home | <b>13</b> Sunset: 4:50pm<br>9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer<br>SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.<br>4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class<br>5:30—Vespers                         |
| <b>14</b>                    | <b>15</b>                      | <b>16</b><br>7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small | <b>17</b><br>7pm—Prayer Meeting | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b> Sunset: 4:52pm<br>Sunset Vesper’s at Renteria Home | <b>20</b> Sunset: 4:53pm<br>9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer<br>SP: Pastor Tony Rodriguez Jr.<br>2pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class<br>5:30—Vespers                            |
| <b>21</b><br>Winter Solstice | <b>22</b>                      | <b>23</b><br>7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small | <b>24</b>                       | <b>25 Christmas Day</b><br>            | <b>26</b> Sunset: 4:56pm<br>Sunset Vesper’s at Renteria Home | <b>27</b> Sunset: 4:57pm<br>9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer<br>Communion Sabbath<br>4:15pm—Spirit of Prophecy Class<br>5:30—Vespers                                     |
| <b>28</b>                    | <b>29</b>                      | <b>30</b><br>7pm—Merly Ortiz’s Small | <b>31</b>                       | <b>January 1</b><br>New Year’s Day<br> | <b>2</b> Sunset: 5:01pm<br>Sunset Vesper’s at Renteria Home  | <b>3</b> Sunset: 5:02pm<br>9am—Sabbath Morning Prayer<br>SP: TBA   |





# San Jose Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church

San Jose Central  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
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San Jose, CA 95116

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Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 10am—3pm  
Wednesday 5pm—9pm

Sabbath Services: Sabbath School: 9:20 am  
Divine Worship: 10:50am

**Mission:** Our mission is to spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ to our community through the power of the Holy Spirit and to provide an affectionate and welcoming place of worship in the unified and spiritual body of Christ through prayerful Bible study and involvement in soul winning and hospitable activities with the goal of preparing ourselves and the city of San Jose for the second advent of Jesus Christ.

**Vision:** We, the San Jose Central Church through the power of the Holy Spirit, strive for an environment filled with unified disciples who work diligently for the cause of advancing the Kingdom of God.

