

# Sunrise Christian Church

## February 2010 Family Newsletter



His banner over us is love!

SS

2:4

As we come into the month of February, a time when we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us not forget that though husbands and wives owe each other love and devotion, that we can only give what we have received. His banner, God's banner, over us is love! Learn to receive His love so that you have something in your "tank" to share with others. John tells us, "We love because He first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19). Therefore let's make this one of our goals for 2010- that we learn to experience God's love in a deeper way so that we may have something to share with others.

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**Love stories from the Bible**

Jacob was in love with Rachel and said (to his uncle), "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban replied, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." And so Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed as if only a few days to him because of his great love for her (Gen. 29:18-20).



I love O. Henry's short story, **The Gift of the Magi**, because in it it shows us that love has a cost- yet a cost well worth the price. The story begins with a young couple getting married, times are tough and life is difficult for them. Christmas is approaching and though poor each secretly desires to treat the other to a gift. Della wants to buy a watch chain for Jim's treasured pocket watch, and Jim wants to buy Della hair combs for her long beautiful hair. Because it was done in secret, Jim does not know that Della has sold her hair to buy him the watch chain, and she does not know that he has sold his pocket watch to buy her hair combs. What at first seems like pure youthful silliness is actually the essence of what true love is- a willingness to spend all that you have on another. This may be in time, attention, and yes, even money; but most of all it means that you have put the other person first in your life. You let them know through your investment of time, words, and finances that they are the most

important person in your life. God wants us to be extravagant in our love for our spouses and family because He was extravagant with His love for us. In truth, the cross is God's love letter to us. Now go and do like-wise! May what it costs you seem equivalent to but a "few days"!

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SCC's missions

update

### Boise Christian Children's Ranch

The Ranch ministers to children who for various reasons need a home to grow and prosper in. In their January newsletter they wrote: "**We are so grateful to each of you who have helped us with special Christmas support, and for those who are our faithful monthly supporters and ministry partners.**" Sunrise Christian Church supports them on a monthly basis as well as at special times during the year when we raise money to purchase things for them during the holidays or other special times.

They have asked that in 2010 we join them in praying for the fulfillment of their desire to **have an activities center build, fill the homes with kids, become more effective in the lives of the children, and to be able to visit their supporting churches.** (Which by the way- they will be at S.C.C. on March 7th)

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**Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC)** exists to help women in trouble pregnancies. They do this in many ways. Yes, they do counseling, hoping the women will decide to give life to the

child they carry. They hope that those who need to will choose to give their child up for adoption, and do train those who choose to keep their child the fundamentals of being a good mother. And yes, they do the scary job of going into the local junior and high schools to teach and encourage sexual abstinence until marriage. Yet if you asked them, they would say their first and foremost job is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people who do not know Him.

February 7<sup>th</sup>, **Susan Parsons** will be with us from PRC to share with us what is going on at the Center. She will be bringing with her the baby bottles we have used in the past to collect money (change, paper money, and/or checks) in. Last year we collected about \$388.52 through this program, plus what was given for their **Walk For Life** which is held in September. I personally want to thank you for your help and contributions as PRC has an important local ministry. I help at PRC by counseling young man who is facing the prospect of being a dad long before they should.

PRC has recently moved into a new building and have a sonogram, nurses and technicians in place to help the client make a wise decision. Yet with that come a greater need for funding, almost all of which comes from people just like you and me. Please read what **Focus on the Family** had to say about the use of sonograms to save the lives of the yet to be born and consider helping PRC again this year.

Dear Friend,

I have encouraging news from the battle to protect human life in America ... **Among women at risk for abortion, providing counseling and ultrasound results in nearly 60% more stated**

### **decisions for life than with counseling alone.**

Sadly, though, about a million women are still walking into abortion clinics every year without the benefit of seeing a sonogram of their baby.

We estimate that ultrasound grants provided with the help of friends like you have saved as many as 72,000 babies!

**Help honor and protect human life.**

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**Thoughts from a Chinese Fortune Cookie** “Your future is whatever you make of it, so make it a good one.”

Life is a journey- it is made up of many steps and the accumulation of these steps determine our destination. And yes, life is what we make of it, but God puts it another way: the seeds we sow will be the seed we harvest (Gal. 6:7&8). Therefore, on our journey through life, may each of us take the time to sow good seeds.

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## **The Church**

The church is not only the redeemed of God but also the body of Christ. This means that we are connected- we are the family of God as well as the hands and arms, legs and feet of Christ. And we are connected to not only God but also to each other! And like a sack race game, this means that being the family of God and body of Christ takes cooperation. So here are some thoughts about cooperation: Cooperation can be spelled with two letters: we. Coming together is a beginning; staying together is progress; working together is success! No one

can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it. You can't applaud with one hand. If you see a turtle on a stump, you can be sure he didn't get there by himself. Team spirit: If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes real good, then we did it- *Bear Bryant*. Cooperation will solve many problems. Even freckles would be a nice tan if they would just get together. Who passed you the ball when you scored? Cooperate! Remember the banana? Every time it leaves the bunch it gets skinned! And, we must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately- *Benjamin Franklin*.

## **The Restoration Movement**

The Restoration Movement, known now as the churches of Christ, Christian Churches, and the Disciples of Christ began in the hearts of men and women in the United States. Actually it has always been there, but the opening of this country gave people the opportunity to try something new- a return to the principles and patterns found in the Bible for the early church. So in 1794, from the Methodist Episcopal church in North Carolina would come James O'Kelly, one who tired of denominationalism and declared, “*I must preach the gospel wherever a door is opened, but I have no intention of a separate party.*” Then later, having been forced from that denomination, formed what he called the “**Christian Church,**” saying, “*We are simply Christians!*” Barton Stone was a frontiersman into the Nashville, Kentucky area before becoming a preacher for the Concord and Cane Ridge Presbytery, yet he struggled with the then popular Calvinism. One day he heard another preacher preach a sermon titled; **God is Love**. He then understood that at God works in the hearts of all people, saying, “*I now saw that a poor sinner was as much authorized to believe*

*in Jesus at first, as at last- that now was the accepted time, the day of salvation!"* This was too much for the Washington Presbytery and so he and five other ministers were asked to leave. After a short episode of trying to form the Springfield presbytery they dissolved it in order to be known simply as "**Christians**," saying "*We heartily unite with our Christian brethren of every name.*" To be continued-

YOUR FRIEND IN CHRIST,

*Bill*