

January 2009

# The Monthly Vine

Staying connected on the latest happenings...

*Loving God, Investing in Community, Following Jesus, Engaging Our World*

## Pastor's Corner.....

*By Ian Prichard*

"Just nine days! Nine days is all we had and they gave us a pile of work to do – a research essay on Hasidic Jews; Greek vocabulary and something on the early church councils. Just nine days!" So went my complaint at the end of our first semester during my second year in Seminary. The nine days did not include Christmas Day, Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) or Sundays. But I remember feeling like the Christmas break was going to pass me by that year and I was dreading the New Year with all that it held in store.

Maybe you dread what the New Year has in store – the economy; illness; pressure at work; dealing with relationships – Well God loves to take us when we are in those places and set us on a path to peace, joy and victory. He is

the expert at drying tears, calming fears, injecting courage into anxious hearts and removing the sting out of painful memories. He makes all things new. He delights to lead us forward.

One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 30:18. It says, "The Lord longs to be gracious to you. He rises to show you compassion." What do you want for 2009? Only you can complete the question, "What if I could?" Where would you like to be? What state of mind? Try to picture what it might look like. Each day will then contribute to the vision you have for your life. Release your outcome to the one who "longs to be gracious to YOU".

After complaining for a while I decided there was not much to gain by it. My grades for my first year in Seminary were not very good and so I determined

that Christmas that, if I had to work all those NINE days, I was going to do the very best I could. The work was still there and it was, at times, tiresome. But at the end of that year I achieved a 2-1 (about a 3.85 GPA) – far better than anything I had managed up until that time. It came down to me; my attitude; my desire to take on life as it presented itself; my choice to commit it to God (albeit with a dose of "it's not fair" thrown in). Interestingly it was not the grades that produced the long lasting effect. God did something deeper. He softened my heart, increased my peace and worked on a 'can-do' attitude in me.

So today, as you put your hand in His, I wish you and your family a very Happy and prosperous New Year.

## Mark your Calendar....

**January 11 - Welcome Lunch**

**January 14 - Serving dinner at Denver Rescue Mission, 7:30**

**January 17 - Women's Brunch**

**January 18 - Plug into Life**

**January 20 - Philippines meeting**

**January 25 - Plug into Life**

**January 30-31 - Leadership Seminar**

**February 1 - Plug into Life**

**February 7 - Women's Study**

**February 8 - Plug into Life**

**February 12 - Serving dinner at Denver Rescue Mission, 7:30**

**February 22 - Welcome Lunch**

**February 25 - All-Ministry Leaders' Meeting**

**March 25 - Community Group Leaders' Meeting**

**March 21 - April 4 - Student LIFE Philippines Mission Trip**

*For additional information on these dates, please visit our Website [littletonvineyard.org](http://littletonvineyard.org) or contact the church office at 303.797.0201.*

## *A Night in Bethlehem Recap.....*

*By Sae Prichard*

Thank you for your work on A Night In Bethlehem

We are so grateful to our over 80 volunteers who gave of themselves and worked tirelessly to make A Night in Bethlehem a success. With almost 500 in attendance we were able to provide a truly special evening for all those who attended, our artists, and many who do not regularly attend church.

We've received wonderful reports from those who attended. One gentleman who attended brought his family because his neighbor attends the church and invited them. He told me some of his story. He'd grown up in church, forced to go until he completed his catechism which he hated. He found it entirely boring and irrelevant to his life.

After that, when he was given a choice whether to attend church or not, he chose to never attend church again. But he respects his neighbors, and when they invited him to A Night in Bethlehem he thought it sounded interesting. He checked out our website and was intrigued by what he read about our children's work. He practically quoted our website where we say,

"We believe living life with God is the greatest and most exciting life you can live. So church should be a great and exciting time for children!" He said that had never been his experience growing up and said that the night was incredible, and truly fit into our description of "great and exciting" for his whole family. He took me around and found his children, wanting me to meet them, and asked that we be sure to let him know of other special events we have for children in the future. I assured him we would!

Another family from the church told me in tears how they had invited their unchurched neighbors. When this family left that night they told them how they felt so loved by every aspect of the night. That is what we hoped people would feel!

There are many more stories! Know that God used this evening to begin to make inroads in the hearts of men, women, and children by giving them a loving and positive experience with a church community. His body. Thank you for choosing to partner with us and give of yourself in service. You made a difference!

## *Make a Difference in 2009... Volunteer to serve at the Rescue Mission*

Last October as a church community we got to change lives by putting our Faith in Action and serving in our community.

At the start of a fresh new year, why not make a difference in someone's life by serving dinner at the Denver Rescue Mission?

Did you know that a team of people serve dinner at the Mission each month? This is a great opportunity for you to connect with someone in need -- either by serving them a hot meal, or talking and praying with them.

This can be something you agree to do each month by yourself, or as a community group.

This month, a team will be serving at the mission on **Wednesday, January 14th, from 7:30-9:00**. Interested in serving either this month or another month? Contact Frieda Palmieri at 303-773-9855 or fpalm57@yahoo.com.

## MOMMS & Tots

- Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
- Food, Fun, & Fellowship!

## VINEYARD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

**JANUARY 30TH 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.**

**JANUARY 31ST 9:00 - 11:30 A.M.**

Littleton Vineyard  
*Experience Real LIFE.*

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