

# crystalcathedral today

## Together, Let's Experience the Blessing of Christmas!



Photo by Dan Scalf

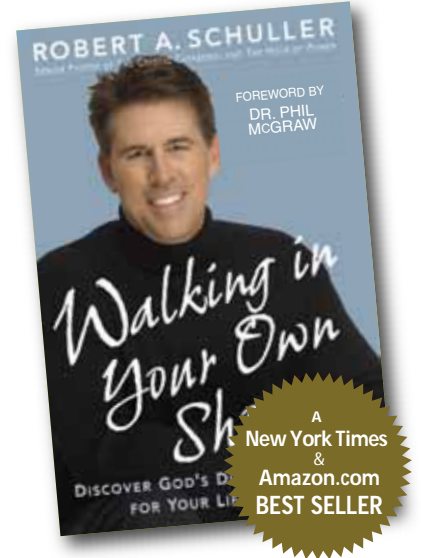
Robert Anthony Schuller (top center in front of the Church of the Nativity during our recent Holy Land tour) invites you to celebrate, together, the birth of our Savior during Sunday worship, *The Glory of Christmas*, Christmas Eve Services, and more!

### Reflections from the Holy Land Walk in Your Own Shoes to Discover Endless Possibilities

By Robert A. Schuller

I have had the unique privilege of visiting Israel dozens of times, most recently this past October when more than 500 *Hour of Power* friends and family members joined my wife Donna and me on a spectacular, ten-day "Walk Where Jesus Walked" Holy Land Tour. Every time I travel to this region, I'm struck by the awesome fact that this is

*Shoes continued on page 14*



Celebrate Jesus with family and friends at THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS, now through Jan. 5. More details, pg. 3.



The Most Beautiful in the World!

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wherever you may be this year, join Dr. Robert H. Schuller and Pastor Robert A. Schuller on Monday, December 24, for the most beautiful Christmas Eve service in the world.

This year's special musical guests include world-renowned "Mr. Piano," Roger Williams, who has been featured in 28 consecutive Christmas Eve Candlelight Services in the Crystal Cathedral. Also performing will be American Idol finalist, Mandisa Lynn Hundley, the inspiring 100-

*Eve continued on page 12*



### This Christmas, Know that God is with You!

By Arvella Schuller for the Schuller family

It's Christmas . . . when we once again celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ. Choirs fill churches and cathedrals with the glorious music of Handel's *Messiah*, and the joyous sound of carolers singing familiar Christmas carols

*Christmas continued on page 12*

### Maximize Your Influence in Our Ever-Changing Culture

By Robert H. Schuller

In the November *Crystal Cathedral Today*, we introduced you to Rethink, a brand new, cutting-edge conference being held at the Crystal Cathedral, January 17-19, 2008, which I have the privilege of co-hosting with one of the nation's leading cultural architects,

*Rethink continued on page 14*



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# december sundays



in the Crystal Cathedral! 9:30 & 11 AM

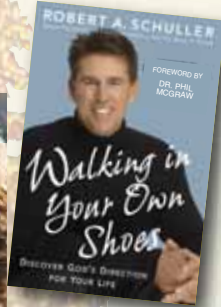
This month continues the encouraging series of messages based on our Senior Pastor's new book, *Walking in Your Own Shoes*. Join Robert A. Schuller and Robert H. Schuller in the Crystal Cathedral with these special guests...

## DECEMBER 2

Interview and music guest, the Grammy-winning **Amy Grant**, will bless us with classic Christmas music as we celebrate our Savior's birth. Also, music by the **Fullerton Jr. College Concert Choir**.



Amy Grant



## DECEMBER 9

Special guest **Max Lucado**, who was dubbed "America's Best Preacher" by *Reader's Digest* comes to share his new ministry, 3:16.



Max Lucado

## DECEMBER 16

**Mary Miyata**, a partner with the Desmond Tutu Foundation, will share stories of Christmas miracles and hope for HIV/AIDS patients in Africa.

## DECEMBER 23

On this Sunday before Christmas, be encouraged by the message of **Pastor Jim Poit** and the music of the **Da Capo Players** and the **C3 Worship Team** as we welcome in the birth of our King.



Jim Poit

## DECEMBER 30

Celebrate the New Year with **Pastor Jim Poit** and the 280-member **Pride Marching Band** from Missouri State University.

## adult FELLOWSHIP every sunday

Take the next step as you become more involved in your Crystal Cathedral church family! Just drop in, or call 714-971-4062 for details.

### ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP 9 AM, T-2.

Join this friendly group led by Beverly Muffin for enlightening Bible studies through scripture, praise, and prayer.

### AMERICAN DREAM BUILDERS 11 AM, FLC-234.

Led by Paul and Grace Park, learn God-centered life application skills to help you find and build your dream.

### ASIAN-AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP 11 AM, Tower Chapel.

Led by Joseph Chun and David Cooper, worship, sing, pray, and fellowship (potluck) together.

### BECOMERS 9 AM, FLC-230.

Led by Jim Kok, this group offers unquestioned support, heartfelt prayer, and loving fellowship.

### CAREER BUILDERS 9:30 AM, Tower-3.

Apply faith to lives and careers by focusing on personal and professional growth in a Christian context.

### CATHEDRAL SINGLES 11 AM, FLC-4.

Learn more about God, make friends, and celebrate with this dynamic group of singles.

### CHRISTIAN LIFE FELLOWSHIP 9:15 AM, FLC-231.

Multigenerational prayer, praise, and worship in fun-loving fellowship.

### EARLY BIRD BIBLE STUDY 8:15 AM Tower-3.

Prayer, great Bible application studies, warm fellowship, and refreshments ignite our day of worship!

### EXPLORERS OF FAITH 11 AM, Tower-3.

Chuck Hahn helps this group to explore and discover God's timeless faith lessons through modern applications.

### HOMEBUILDERS 9 AM, Art Gallery.

This group of adults led by Glenn DeMaster meets for loving fellowship, prayer, and unquestioned support.

### NEW COMMUNITY SEMINARS 11 AM, Art Gallery.

This growing group offers verse-by-verse Bible studies and a place to belong.

### NEW HORIZONS 11 AM, Tower-2.

Bible study, prayer, missions, and fellowship are foundational to this friendly group led by James and Yvonne Richards.

### REJOICERS 9 AM, FLC-127.

Celebrate with this class for the developmentally disabled through visually aided Bible studies and social activities.

## Seven Glorious Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

### Monday, December 24

3 PM, 4:30 PM, 6 PM, 7:30 PM, 9 PM, 10:30 PM, 12 AM

Experience one of the most beautiful Christmas Eve Services in the world through the beauty of dozens of twinkling Christmas wreaths and trees, and the splendor of falling "snow" inside the Cathedral! Dr. Robert H. Schuller and Pastor Robert A. Schuller invite you to enjoy the music of American Idol finalist *Mandisa*, "Mr. Piano" *Roger Williams*, the *Cathedral Choir*, the *Hour of Power Orchestra*, and vocalists *Jason Catron*, *Natalie Leonard*, and *Daniel McGrew*.



## MORE ON SUNDAY

► Live Contemporary Worship  
► Live Feed of Morning Message & Guest!  
► Live Connection with Friends!  
9:30 & 11 AM, FREED THEATER

**Hispanic Sunday Services**  
Encouraging services in Spanish with Dr. Luiz Lemos  
1:15 PM, Cathedral  
6:30 PM, Chapel in the Sky

**The Gathering Community**  
Authentic faith through art, worship & community  
11 AM, Arboretum, Bobby Schuller

**SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE**  
Close the day and meet the week with inspiration!  
6:30 PM  
Crystal Cathedral  
Dr. Jim Poit

**arabic ministry**  
NEW!  
1:30 PM,  
FREED THEATER  
WELCOMING CENTER

**child/student FELLOWSHIP**


In the Family Life Center,  
9:30 & 11 AM,  
and 1 PM  
For children through grade 5

In the Family Life Center,  
11 AM  
For students, grade 6-12

# calendar of events

For further information about any of the events listed in the calendar, go to the page indicated: (1) = pg. 1.

*Most nights through January 8*



## THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS®

Through a creative blend of Christmas carols and the pageantry of live animals, flying angels, and special effects, the Nativity unfolds in colorful and spectacular wonder! For show times and ticket reservations, call  
**714-54-GLORY**  
 or toll free **877-54-GLORY**, or  
 visit [www.crystalcathedral.org](http://www.crystalcathedral.org).  
*Tickets may also be purchased online.*

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<b>december</b>						1
2 Handel's Messiah (15)	3	4	5			8
		9 Christmas Potluck (10)	10			11
16	17	18 ◀ Homebuilders Dinner (5)	19	20 50+ PrimeTime (11)	21	22 Radio City Spectacular
23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7 Glorious Services	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27		
30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					

## every week

at the Crystal Cathedral

### monday

American Dream Builders, 7 PM, FLC-221 . . . . . 562-402-1424  
 Band of Brothers, 7 PM, FL . . . . . 714-971-4236

### tuesday

Women's NetWork, 9:30 AM, AG (resumes 1/8) . . 714-971-4080  
 Cathedral Singles, 7 PM, FLC-3 . . . . . 714-971-4061

### wednesday

Men's Bible Study, 7 AM, T-2 . . . . . 714-971-4236  
 House of Power, 12 NOON, FLC-3 . . . . . 714-971-4095  
 Sr. High, 7 PM, FLC-gym . . . . . 714-971-4180

### thursday

Toastmasters, 7 AM & 7 PM, T-2 . . . . . 714-971-4123

### friday

Jr. High, 7 PM, FLC-gym . . . . . 714-971-4180  
 Soul Food, 6:30 PM, FL (resumes 1/11) . . . . . 714-971-4080

### saturday

Men's Bible Fellowship, 7 AM, FLC-221 . . . . . 714-971-4236  
 Laubach/ESL/Literacy, 9:30 AM, FLC-3 . . . . . 714-971-4325  
 Aerobics, 9 AM, FLC-LL . . . . . 714-971-4080

AG= Art Gallery ARB= Arboretum BKS= CC Books & Gifts  
 CC= Crystal Cathedral CHP= Chapel-in-the-Sky  
 FL=Family Lounge FLC= Family Life Center LL= Lower Level  
 RCH= Rancho Capistrano T= Tower of Hope

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY				5 <i>Coming...</i> Cathedral Choir Concert: 2/28 (15) Russian River Cruise: 7/3-18 (11) Living by God's Design: 11/24 - 3/1 (5) Nepal Mission: 6/16 - 7/3 (5)	
6	7	8 The Glory of Christmas, closing night (1)	9	10	11	12	
13 Legacy Club Lunch (10)	14 Logos Bible Winter Qtr. (5)	15	116	17 Rethink Conference (1)	18 Rethink Conference (1)	19 Rethink Conference (1)	
20	21 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY				24	15	26
27 Experience the CC (5)	28				29	30	31



### Crystal Cathedral Today

**By e-mail and online!**  
 Go to [www.crystalcathedral.org](http://www.crystalcathedral.org) to sign up to receive this monthly publication, the #1 source of Crystal Cathedral information!

### crystalcathedraltoday

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# Crystal Cathedral Today! Second Front Page

Crystal Cathedral Children & Youth Auction

## Thanks for Giving!

By Dr. Sheila Coleman, Director of Family Ministries



These smiling members of the Christopher Troung family, who made a donation in support of the auction, were the excited opportunity drawing recipients of a car!

To all of our amazing supporters of the annual Children and Youth Auction, this year was another big success! Thank you to all of you who gave of your abundance, providing new and tantalizing items to auction. And thank you to all of you who came and purchased tickets to the event and bid on items in both the silent and the live auctions.

This year we tried something new—a more intimate setting in the Welcoming Center, and the unanimous response was, “Do it this way again next year!” So, for those of you who missed it, we encourage you to get your tickets early next year as we nearly sold out this year!

All in all we raised just under \$40,000 which will be used primarily for scholarships to help children attend our annual Family Camp held at Forest Home. This is a chance for families to get away and reconnect with each other and with God. In today’s world, there is nothing more important. Other ways the funds will be used will be to help out our youth ministries launch new programs as well as scholarship students to our youth camps. Last, but not least, the schools (Crystal Cathedral Preschool, Academy, Middle School, and High School) are saving their funds to help make much-needed capital improvements to the ministry facilities, such as new playground resurfacing and new flooring for the gymnasium.

So, from all the children—thank you for giving—from the bottom of our hearts! You made it all possible!

Three Tips: Remember, Cry, Give

### Handling the Holidays

By Sharon Marshall Lockett, Divorce & Grief Recovery Facilitator

Christmas is my favorite time of year. I love shopping; I love baking; I love decorating. I love for people to visit. But for those of us who have lived through a major heartache, thoughts of the holidays hang ominously, our dread deepening as they approach. If you have had a year of life changes, here are some pointers to get you through.

1. **REMEMBER.** So often, in the aftermath of loss, we go to our holiday celebrations and don't mention our loved

*Holidays continued on page 7*



Wendell Higbee:

## A Pottawatomie Elder Helps Build our Church

By Jim Kok, Pastor of Care Ministries

The Pottawattamie, an historic Indian Tribe, revere Wendell Higbee. He is one of them and has lived to be one of their oldest (95 on July 7, 2007). In that culture, growing older is a sign of value and deserving of deep respect. He is also part Delaware Cherokee and part French.

Nevertheless, he is even more one of us! Since 1968, when he and Helen, who died in 1988, took their first steps onto this campus, he has been one hundred percent active in this ministry: New Hope counselor, tour guide for 20 years, usher at every Glory, and helper at the Institute, Women’s Conference, and Ranch Events. He deserves our greatest esteem and appreciation also. He remains active in many of these ministries.

Wendell is a pedigreed Native American, and a life-long Christian. Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Boy Scouts defined his childhood. What a classic upbringing! Credit his mom. His dad, a civilian paymaster for the World War I U.S. Army, walked out on the family when Wendell was 12. Wendell had to become the “dad” to his four younger brothers, so he went to work. Right away he was earning money for the family through delivering papers and groceries on his bike. And despite his extra responsibilities, he finished high school with honors.



Another one of Wendell’s early jobs was with the Hollywood Paper Box Co. There he made cardboard articles, 4,000 an hour, which were used as holding trays for a brand new product called “sliced bread.”

The major employment of Wendell’s adult years was in the rubber industry. He had studied chemistry intensely, and took courses at USC in rubber technology. He was on the rubber scene when synthetic rubber was invented, and became standard equipment. He helped to develop a new product called “recaps” for tires, still widely used today. For twenty-five years, he worked for South Western Rubber Co., and also many years for Bridgestone Tires.

When friends invited Helen and him to a

*Higbee continued on page 15*

# Congregational LIFE

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

### From Your Congregational Life Team...

Dear friends, as you prepare to celebrate this spectacular Christmas season, please remember those within your sphere of influence who may be alone for the holidays.

How can you be "Jesus with skin on" for those who have recently lost a loved one?

How can you be present for someone who is experiencing loneliness?

In which ways can you be a gift to another?

Who can you invite to join you on Christmas Eve to hear the message of hope?

How can you share joy with the joyless?

The Congregational Life Team offers this challenge to the body of believers at the Crystal Cathedral. May God bless you as you are a blessing to others.

*Maureen Gwelin  
Nicole Deh*

### Sending Christmas Cheer to Troops in Need

At Christmastime, when it's the hardest to be away from home, our troops need our support more than ever. In an effort to encourage the Third Infantry Division in Iraq, our Crystal Cathedral veterans have established a program to send mail to these men and women far from home. Would you like to help?

What we need are personal letters written to these soldiers, telling them that you appreciate them, that you are praying for them, and that you

wish them well. The Commanding General of the Third Infantry Division has assigned specific individuals in each of his organizations to receive these letters and distribute them to the soldiers who receive little or no mail from home.

Each area of the U.S. has been assigned a specific person to handle these letters, and our representative is SGT Tricia Daniels (see sidebar), who will distribute your correspondence to the service men and women most in need of encouragement. If you place your return address on the envelope, some will write back to you. The Third Infantry Division will be in Iraq until mid-2008, so we need to keep the letters rolling. We, the veterans of the Crystal Cathedral, especially during the Christmas season, thank you for your support!

**"Wishing you a Merry Christmas, though far from home..."**

**Place a 41-cent stamp on the envelope and address your Christmas letter to:**  
SGT Daniels, Tricia (Any Soldier Mail)  
HHOC, STB-3ID Unit # 42167  
Camp Victory, Iraq  
APO, AE 09342

### Join the Festivities on Dec. 17

By Donna Sivachenko, Homebuilder

The always fun and festive Homebuilders Fellowship Christmas Celebration will be held on Monday, December 17 at 5:30 PM in the beautifully arrayed Arboretum. Sign up at the Homebuilders Sunday fellowship meeting, 9 AM in the Art Gallery.

*Congregational Life continued on page 14*

Homebuilders  
**Christmas Dinner**

serve the world

Global Community  
AT CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL

## SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

### Minister to the People of Nepal

Next summer, 2008, members of The Gathering Community will pack their bags and head off to the 16th poorest country in the world - Nepal. The cost of the trip will be offset by the many fundraisers planned. If you are interested in ministering to God's children in this remote region, don't let the cost stop you from filling out an application, available at the information table at The Gathering (Sundays, 11 AM in the Arboretum). If your heart calls you to Nepal, join Bobby and Hannah Schuller on June 16 - July 3 for this life-changing mission.

### More Int'l Mission Trips

International trips are currently being planned to send short-term mission teams to places as close as Mexico and as far as the Dominican Republic and possibly a return trip to Africa! If you have a heart for bringing the love of Jesus to people in need around the world, call the Global Community dept., 714-971-4194.

## HOUR OF POWER INTERNATIONAL

### HOP New Zealand: More Than a Television Program

By Nancy Goodwin, General Manager, Hour of Power New Zealand

This year, the Lord has blessed the ministry in New Zealand with great opportunities:

We hosted two special visits - the first by Robert and Donna Schuller with four meetings in two cities, and just recently the ministry

*Global continued on page 12*

# Experience the CC



Discover who we are and what we believe. Explore how you and your family can belong to our community that wants to care for you and help you make a difference in the world. Learn how we, at the Crystal Cathedral, come to:

- u **KNOW GOD** THROUGH WORSHIP & PRAYER
- u **LOVE PEOPLE** THROUGH FELLOWSHIP & CARE
- u **SERVE THE WORLD** THROUGH GIVING & GROWTH

Sundays, JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 17, 2008, 8:30 AM - NOON.  
Call 714-971-4062 to let us know you're coming!



The New Zealand staff with Daniel Rodriguez (2nd from right).

# care & kindness

## CARE MINISTRY

### Need to Talk?

You may call:

714-NEW-HOPE (Adults).

714-NEW-TEEN (Teens).

Family Counseling Center, 714-971-4222.

Care Ministry, 714-971-4032.

Crystal Cathedral Pastor, 714-971-4098.

## NEW HOPE

### Help Make the World a Better Place

By Dr. Bill Gaultiere, Director of New Hope



Bill Gaultiere

You are needed as a New Hope Counselor! You can help make the world a better place one conversation at a time by joining New Hope's team of caring Christian volunteers. Every day many people in crisis, and others who are lonely or struggling, talk with a New Hope Counselor. Mostly they

just need someone to listen.

There are three ways to be trained to help hurting people via our hotlines (714-NEW-HOPE and 714-NEW-TEEN) or private chat rooms (NewHopeNow.org and Teenline.org): a Local Training Program, an Online Training Program, or a Satellite Training Program.

Course topics include:

"What You Feel is Not What You Think"

"Listening So People Talk"

"The ABCs of Helping Hurting People"

"Setting Boundaries with Difficult Callers"

"Walking with People in Grief"

"Embracing the Wounded with Prayer"

"Suicide Prevention & Intervention"

"Where is God in All of This?"

During the training, you'll learn life skills to help you in relationships with family, friends, and God, and in your capacity to serve God by offering care and encouragement to those in need. For more information, call 714-971-4123, or go online at [newhopenow.org/misc/involved](http://newhopenow.org/misc/involved).

New Hope Counselors Say...

"I had a void in my life. I wanted to help others so I joined New Hope and it's changed my life!"

"Right at home from my computer I'm able to offer help to people from around the world."

"My life has greater meaning when someone says, 'Thanks for listening. I feel better now.'"

"I prevented a suicide. And all I did was listen!"

"Helping hurting people with their problems helps me. I learn from their experiences and grow in wisdom so that I make better decisions in my own life."

"It's a joy to give something back."

## DR. KOK'S KORNER

### 68 Years Later: "Dick Higgins, We Thank You!"

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, Dick Higgins was sound asleep in his bunk in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when the first wave of bombs hit. In seconds, he was dressed and rushing toward the PBYS parked nearby. He says he knew immediately what was happening.

During the next half hour as two more waves of low-flying Japanese bombers and fighter planes swept in bombing and striking, Dick and mates pushed the surviving planes into flyable positions on the ground, though all the planes were too damaged to take off. In minutes, it was over with incredible damage and thousands of deaths.

President Roosevelt called it a "Day of Infamy" and World War II was declared. Dick Higgins was in it from the moment it started. In 1959, as a Chief Petty Officer and Chief Aviation Electronics Technician, his 20-year military career ended, but the blessing of his bravery lives on to this day.



Dick Higgins

## CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER

### Coping with Stress During the Holidays

By Burton N. Winer, MBA, MA

The holidays often bring stressors into our lives not experienced the rest of the year. If you're feeling stressed, or need other types of help for you or your family, the Family Counseling Center team includes counselors with special interests in helping parents, children, and adolescents, and in the issues of career development, stress manage-

ment, relationships, recovery, and more. There are affiliated bilingual counselors for those speaking Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean.

The Family Counseling Center continues its counseling support effort to reflect our mission serving families and individuals during the life challenges of pre-marital, marital, family, career, and everyday coping issues. Parenting with Loving Control (PLC) multi-family sessions are available in Spanish and English each month in the Orange County area by calling 714-538-6387.

Just call the Family Counseling Center at 714-971-4222 for an appointment and a counselor will return your call.



## SUPPORT GROUPS

### No Cost to Attend – Just Show Up!

For more information about these groups sponsored by Crystal Cathedral Care Ministries, call 714-971-4098.

A.C.A. (Co-ed): Thu., 7:30 PM, FLC-236. Adult children of alcoholic parent(s), journaling focus.

ACES: 1st Tue., 7 PM, FLC-234. Advocates for Children in Enforcement of child Support.

AL-ANON (Men); Thu., 8 PM, FLC-230.

AL-ANON (Co-ed); Fri., 8 PM, FLC-230.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: 4th Fri., 1 PM T-3. Caregivers support group.

BEREAVED PARENTS/USA: 3rd Mon., 7 PM, FLC-235. Those who have lost a child (of any age).

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS (COED): Tue., 8 PM, FLC-221. Overcoming.

MEN AT PEACE: Thu., 7:30 PM, FLC-FRH3. Dealing with anger and/or depression. (May meet court-ordered requirements; check with officer of the court.)

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE: 1st/3rd Sun., 1:30 PM, T-2. Adults who have lost loved one to suicide.

THE UNWELCOME JOURNEY: Thursday, 7 PM, FLC-3. Widowed persons group.

Dr. Jim Kok, Pastor of Care Ministry

Dr. Bill Gaultiere, Director of New Hope

Holidays continued from page 4

one. We fear remembering would make everyone sad. In reality, everyone who loves him/her is sad; and the only thing worse than sadness is sadness that is lonely. So...remember. Talk, laugh, and cry together. You own the memories, good and bad.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are the major holidays; but for those of us who have lost a loved one, birthdays, anniversaries, and life celebrations are also tough. The first major event I had to face in the aftermath of my losses was my son Justin's first birthday. He was only 4 ½ months old when he died. My husband grieved through alcohol; he left one month after Justin died. I was counseling with a grief specialist who asked me how I would celebrate Justin's birthday. The word "celebrate" hadn't entered my mind. I responded, "I will close my eyes and hope the day ends somehow." He said, "The day will happen whether or not you face it. If you could forget Justin, you could forget Jeff (my 3-year-old). You owe it to your living son to celebrate Justin's memory."

Celebrate in your own special way. To celebrate Justin's life, Jeff and I play a round of golf in his honor. Later, I write my annual "mother letter." No matter how many years it has been, I'm Justin's mother; and there are just some things a mother needs to say.

2. **CRY.** In the aftermath of loss, some of us go into high gear. We run from one event to another; from one project to another. We keep busy because if we stop, we'll have to think. If we think, we'll have to feel. If we feel, we'll have to cry; and if we cry, we can never quit...so we keep moving. When we do that, the tears go inside.

This holiday season, give yourself permission to spend some time crying. That's why God made tears. But cry tears from your heart, not from your head. When you cry "head tears," you end up empty of tears but full of grief. When you cry heart tears, the grief eases a little.

How do you cry "heart tears?" Cry on paper. Write out your heartache; write out your memory; write out what you would like to say to the person you love. Journaling is a form of worship; cry your "heart tears" in a letter to God. Then ask Him to live and speak peace to the places in your heart where your tears used to live. My grief counselor suggested, that first birthday, that I write about Justin. That memory began my "grief work" and later became my first book, Justin, Heaven's Baby.

3. **GIVE.** In the aftermath of loss, sometimes we isolate ourselves. The only thing worse than being lonely is being lonely alone. Reach out. Plan to do something with and for another, and give yourself permission to avoid toxic people.

## CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, ACADEMY & PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL

### Christmastime: A Time to Give

By Marlene Kikta, Preschool Director

The children of the Crystal Cathedral Preschool will be performing at their annual Christmas Program on December 4. As always, it will be the "shortest but sweetest" little Christmas Program ever! Our children were busy last month participating in Operation Christmas Child and as we like to describe it "filling a box with love" to share with children that are needy!

The Preschool still has some openings at this time. Please feel free to contact us at 714-971-4141 or take a tour to see what a distinctive program that our school has to offer!



ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL  
"Ask, Believe, and Receive"

By Susan Lashier, Teacher, Crystal Cathedral Academy

Available to new, first-year K-5 students, a new Scholarship Fund that was developed based on the principle, "Ask, Believe, and Receive." Created under the Arvella Scholarship Foundation, its purpose is to help families in need within the community. Students receiving scholarships must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or equivalent and satisfactory or above in citizenship. Those wishing to apply, or to make a donation to the fund, please call Kristen at 714-971-4159.

The Crystal Cathedral Academy is a K-12 Performing Arts School offering Visual Art,

Drama, Music, and P.E. classes twice a week in addition to a dynamic accelerated general curriculum. The school was founded on the principles of positive Christianity and continues to be an example of abundant giving to the community.

Christmastime offers countless opportunities to love another person in Jesus' name. If you can't face your family, volunteer to serve in a soup kitchen. Usher for *The Glory of Christmas* or the Christmas Eve services. Give a gift in honor of

Christmastime offers countless opportunities to love another person in Jesus' name.

those you love. Can't afford it? Let me tell you my story.

One year, the Cathedral sponsored an Angel Tree for Orangewood children. I was struggling to begin life again, sometimes working several jobs. I couldn't afford to sponsor a child, but I wandered over to check them out. There was a boy on the angel tree whose name was Justin.

Every week, I checked to see if Justin's name had been taken; every week it was still there; every week I told God I couldn't afford to do it. Then I realized that if my Justin were alive, I would find a way to afford it. I delighted in buying Christmas for two boys instead of one. Then

I was privileged to accompany the packages to the home where I met this Justin. His hair was a shade lighter than Jeff's, and he had a round, freckled face with a big smile. He could have been mine!

Now every year, in Justin's memory, I give to a child who needs a temporary earthly mother. My Justin doesn't need anything; another child does. With the anonymous gifts, I say again, "I love you, Justin."

When I was struggling through my losses, I heard Frank Freed speak. He said he learned in seminary that God has glorious power to get us through our every life circumstance not just somehow, but triumphantly. He went on to recount his experiences during World War II and tapped his arm that is a prosthesis. He concluded that there are times in life when it is okay with him if God can just get us through somehow.

This may be your "somehow" year. Get through it by doing "whatever's next." But remember..."triumphant" is coming. You will survive, you will grow, and you will prosper. This grief event may seem like a roadblock, but it is just a detour. God will give you a tomorrow better than your yesterday. In the words of our great leader, Dr. Schuller, "God still has a plan for your life, and it is good."