



KIDS

EXPERIENCE A KID POWER PLANT CHRISTMAS!

Children will be drawn into Kid Power Plant this Christmas season because it is so fun and there's always something new and different to discover and learn. The everyday world disappears and Kid Power Plant comes alive!

Each Sunday morning in December, they will learn about the coming Savior. During this revolutionary experience for preschoolers and elementary-aged children, the hands-on activities and the relationships with friends and leaders allow our children the opportunity to "ignite" their inherent potential (Philippians 1:6), "connect" to their God-given plan and dream (Jeremiah 29:11), and "transform" through a positive relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We look forward, especially at Christmastime, to loving and nurturing your children in friendship and faith, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, and 1:30 PM, Sundays in the Family Life Center – now better known as KID POWER PLANT!

KPP NEEDS YOU!

Calling all God-serving individuals who love the Lord and understand the need to bring Biblical truths to our children. Find your niche to serve for the 1st (9:10 AM) and/or 2nd (10:40 AM) hour on Sunday mornings:

- * Volunteer Sunday School Teachers
- * Kiosk Check-In Helpers
- * Tech. Crew

Please contact Children's Ministry Department 714-971-4087 for more information.

BLESS YOUR BABY WITH BAPTISM!

If you are a local attender and have a child or are expecting a child, we invite you to call Maureen Winer in Congregational Life for more information about infant baptism, 714-971-4062.



YOUTH

JR. HIGH STUDENTS

XLR8 TUESDAYS: It's a place where Jr. Highers come together! If you are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, XLR8 is where you want to be. We have wild and crazy Tuesday night programming, 7 – 8:30 PM at the Youth House. From 7 - 7:30 PM is Hang Out time. Then, 7:30 - 8:30 PM is Games, Life Topic Teachings, Small Groups, and more!

SUNDAYS: It's for students who really want to deepen their faith. We meet Sundays at 11 AM in the Family Life Center basement, room B22 along with our Sr. Highers for a great time of worship, community, and Bible Teaching.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

FUEL WEDNESDAYS: FUEL shatters the stereotype that church is boring. FUEL is designed to celebrate life and relationships. FUEL meets Wednesday nights, 7 – 9 PM at the Youth House. From 7 - 7:30 PM is Hang Out time. Then, 7:30 – 9 PM is Games, Life Topic Teachings, Small Groups, and more!

SUNDAY FUEL: It's for students who really want to deepen their faith. We meet Sundays at 11 AM in the Family Life Center basement, room B22 along with our Jr. Highers for a great time of worship, community, and Bible Teaching.



Love
God
and
Love
Youth!

If you feel called to encourage our youth on Tues. or Wed. nights, contact Brett DePena for more volunteer details: 714-971-4180

FAMILY SUNDAYS

Parking: Families park next to Family Life Center and take shuttle to church!

Shuttle: Stops next to Family Life Center and other spots around campus!

Quiet Room: In the Tower Lobby, watch the service with your child.



Contact Student Ministries
Brett DePena, Director
crystalcathedral.org/ccsm
or e-mail:
ccsm@crystalcathedral.org
714-971-4180

ADULT Ministries



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S NETWORK

What do 60-70 women of all ages do on Tuesday mornings? They attend the Women's Network, a creative Bible study unlike any other. No one wants to miss this opportunity to experience the love of God, discover life-changing Biblical truths, and enjoy the sense of community of other women on their spiritual journeys. The mornings include singing, sharing, praying, stimulating object lessons and small group time. The leader, Rhea Zakich, creates each lesson anew and facilitates this time of creativity and insight. All are welcome! Tuesdays at 9 AM in the Art Gallery. Questions? Call Kari 714-971-4080.

SOUL FOOD: "THE SHACK" BOOK STUDY

Is your soul feeling malnourished? Join teacher extraordinaire, Kim Kimpel and go home feeling satisfied deep within. On Friday, November 21 Kim will begin a special book study delving into the intriguing new book, *The Shack*, by William Young. Come join the discussion and meet some wonderful new friends. Friday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Family Lounge, 714-971-4240.

MEN'S NETWORK

MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

If you would like the support of other men experiencing your same life-stage journey, call 714-971-4236 for details.

BAND OF BROTHERS: Monday evenings, 7 - 9 PM, Family Life Center, Rm. 435.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings, 7 AM, Tower of Hope, Floor 2.

MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: Saturday mornings, 7 AM, Family Life Center, Rm. 221.

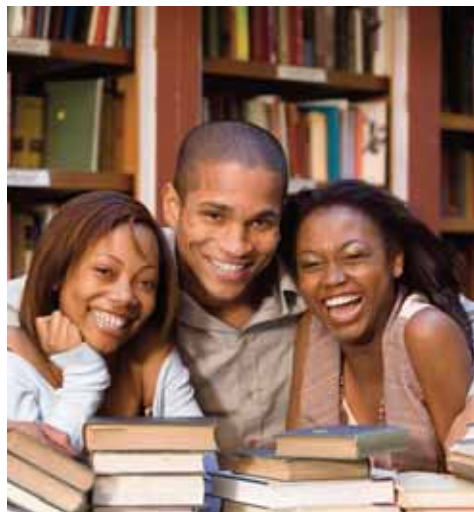
YOUNG ADULTS

COLLEGE GROUP: JOIN US!

By Mark Wojciechowski, Leader

If you're college-age (18-29) and looking to connect with others your age, please join us on Sunday nights, 6 - 7 PM in the Youth House. We are devoted to diving into God's Word and connecting with others our own age.

This fall, You can participate, or join in the enjoyment of others' creative expression. We're starting a bimonthly open-mic night where people can share their creative side through live music, singing, artwork, poems, spoken word, rap, dance, etc. We'll explain our inspiration for the pieces and, since the word "inspiration" means literally to "breathe within" or to give life to, we'll see how creative the Creator is in and through His own creation even as we create. Sound like fun? For exact details, e-mail me at markw@crystalcathedral.org.



SINGLES

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP: SUNDAYS & TUESDAYS

Every Sunday, 11 AM in FLC-470, mature singles do their very best to portray love to each other and to every new person who enters the doorway, and share the wisdom of the Word as applied to everyday living. Every Tuesday, 7 PM in FLC-3, they do the same during "Tuesdays Together." On Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings at the Crystal Cathedral, find some of the best people in the world just waiting to be your friend.



DIVORCE & GRIEF RECOVERY: PHASE 1

Led by Sharon Lockett and George Hansel, Thursdays, 6:30 PM, February 12 - March 26 in Family Life Center, Rm. 470, this positive approach to dealing with the loss of a relationship is a life-changing healing experience. Call 714-971-4084 to register. \$50/pre-register; \$55/@door. Children's program available. Phase 2 will be held April 2 - May 14.

TRAVEL MINISTRY

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Thurs., December 11, 11:30 AM, Art Gallery. Following a delicious Prime Rib luncheon, enjoy Christmas songs performed by our Crystal Cathedral Academy Choir. Bring a child's gift for donation. Join fellow Crystal Cathedral travelers as you dream of future adventures ahead. Cost: \$15. RSVP: 714-544-5679.

NEWPORT HARBOR BOAT PARADE

Dec. 20, 2:15 - 10:15 PM, \$93. One of our most popular trips, this one always sells out quickly. Deluxe motor coach to the legendary Five Crowns Restaurant in Corona Del Mar to enjoy their





award-winning prime rib dinner. Then on to Rogers Gardens to view their “Christmas Fantasy” display of themed Christmas trees. Next we head to the Balboa Pavilion for the Boat Parade, where we will sail the calm waters alongside hundreds of decorated boats and homes.

PAGEANT OF OUR LORD

Sun., March 29, 1-6:30 PM, \$33. Enjoy this unique presentation of the life of Christ through life-sized paintings and sculptures, utilizing live models within the art, accompanied by original narration, choir, and orchestra. Join in this beautiful blending of art, drama, and music.

HERITAGE OF AMERICA

March 13 to 22, \$2629 dble occ. Fly to New York City and enjoy two days exploring the city your own way using a double-decker bus pass that will take you to the city’s most famous attractions and includes a guided tour along the way. We join the group on Day 3 and travel to Philadelphia for

a tour of the historic city that includes the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. Day 4 features a tour of Amish Country including dinner in the home of an Amish family. On the days following, visit Gettysburg, the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, Monticello, and Colonial Williamsburg. The tour ends with two days in Washington D.C., where we will visit many attractions including Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery and the White House Visitor’s Center. The memories of this historic tour will stay with you for a lifetime.

RESERVATIONS/INFORMATION

Go to the Box Office or call for details and reservations, 714-544-5679. Find more information online at www.crystalcathedral.org/ministries/travel. Trips and pricing are subject to change.

MATURE ADULTS

CHRISTMAS JAZZ & MORE!

On Thursday, December 18, 11 AM in the Arboretum, enjoy warm fellowship and outstanding Christmas music by Dave Stephens’ fantastic jazz band will be playing music and more. You just can’t miss this one.



Come and sing along on the Christmas Carols! The Whistler, Mike Vogelvang, will entertain us with his unique skill. And our own beloved WWII Pearl Harbor survivor, Dick Higgins, will be interviewed. This wonderful event is open to everyone – bring your friends and neighbors. E-mail 50plus@crystalcathedral.org or call 714-971-4031 to reserve a place for lunch & the program.

MATURE ADULTS
Dr. Jim Kok, Pastor

MEN’S & WOMEN’S
Michelle Cavinder, Director

TRAVEL
Rev. Glenn DeMaster, Pastor

BE INSPIRED THIS CHRISTMAS!

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS

Offering a wide range of holiday decorative items and gifts for children and adults to suit every taste and need.
Open daily, 9 AM – 6 PM

Lovely Settings for Your Special Day

Crystal Cathedral Weddings

What could be more glorious than a wedding in the light-filled Crystal Cathedral or beautiful Arboretum? Or more serene than in the Good Shepherd garden? Or more exhilarating than in the Chapel atop the Tower of Hope? These and other settings available.

Call 714-971-4240

Courage continued from page 1

encounter devastating natural disasters and financial downturns. Inspired by those who step up in faith when others turn and run, a landmark fine art exhibition,



“Gifts of Courage,” will be presented at the Crystal Cathedral now through January 9 in the beautiful Richard Meier-designed Welcoming Center. This free event is open to the public, designed for all ages, and comprised of three elements – an art exhibit with music, documentary film screenings, and family workshops.

“Succour - the gifts of support and solace” is presented in the Second Floor Gallery by SEEDS Fine Art Exhibitions and curators Cindi Zech Rhodes and Denise Kufus Weyhrich ([\[fineart.org\]\(http://fineart.org\)\). An all-media national group exhibition of forty-five artists, it takes a cue from the scripture, “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” \(Ecclesiastes 4:12b\). Two years in the making, this exhibition honors the courageous people in the lives of the artists and reveals the personal struggles and triumphs of all people and cultures. Each work is accompanied by a personal explanation, adding an insightful element to this compelling experience.](http://www.seeds-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Siege on Modjeska, a documentary film by Darrel Dorr, will be screened on Saturdays in the Freed Theater, Garden Level. Witness heart-break and hope in Modjeska Canyon like the kind we saw recently during the Southern California fire season. This film tells the story of a courageous volunteer fire unit and their battle to save their beautiful canyon town.

“Hands of Courage” Fine Art Family Workshops will be led by Margie Tabor Zuliani of Legacy Arts. Family members of all ages will have the opportunity to become artists as they honor those who have shown great courage - a parent, a firefighter, a police officer, a member of the U.S.



military, a teacher, a friend, or a child. The finished hands-on art projects using cut paper, drawing, and gluing will be displayed and become part of the exhibition. Workshops will continue on Sundays throughout the exhibition.

See below, left, for more “Gifts of Courage” details and schedules for the special music, film screenings, and family workshops, or go to www.crystalcathedral.org/events_news, or pick up a flyer at the Crystal Cathedral.



GIFTS OF COURAGE

ART EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Art Exhibit: “Succour – the Gift of Support & Solace”

Welcoming Center, Floor Two
Sat., Nov. 29: 6-9 PM (Gala Opening)
Daily, Sun, Nov. 30 – Fri., Jan. 9

Special “Gifts of Courage” Music

Welcoming Center, Grand Lobby
Sat., Nov. 29: 6-9 PM (Gala Opening)
Sun., Nov. 30: 10:30 AM - 1 PM,
4:30-5:30 PM, 6:30-7:30 PM
Sun., Dec. 7: 10:30 AM - 1 PM,
4:30-5:30 PM, 6:30-7:30 PM
Sat., Dec. 13: 5:30-6:30 PM, 7:30-8:30 PM
Sun., Dec. 14: 10:30 AM - 1 PM,
4:30-5:30 PM, 6:30-7:30 PM
Sat., Dec. 20: 5:30-6:30 PM, 7:30-8:30 PM
Sun., Dec. 21: 10:30 AM - 1 PM,
4:30-5:30 PM, 6:30-7:30 PM
Sat., Dec. 27: 5:30-6:30 PM, 7:30-8:30 PM
Sun., Dec. 28: 10:30 AM - 1 PM,
4:30-5:30 PM, 6:30-7:30 PM
Sun., Jan. 4: 10:30 AM - 1 PM

Film Screenings: “Siege on Modjeska”

Welcoming Center Freed Theater
Sat., Nov. 29: 8 PM, 9:15 (Gala Opening)
Sun., Nov. 30: 5 PM, 7 PM
Sun., Dec. 7: 7 PM
Sun., Dec. 14: 7 PM
Sat., Dec. 20: 6 PM, 8 PM
Sun., Dec. 21: 5 PM, 7 PM
Sat., Dec. 27: 6 PM, 8 PM
Sun., Dec. 28: 5 PM, 7 PM

Family Workshops: “Hands of Courage”

Welcoming Center, Garden Level
Sat., Nov. 29: 6-9 pm (Gala Opening)
Sun., Nov. 30: 10:30 AM - 3 PM
Sun., Dec. 7: 10:30 AM - 3 PM
Sun., Dec. 14: 10:30 AM - 3 PM
Sun., Dec. 21: 10:30 AM - 3 PM
Sun., Dec. 28: 10:30 AM - 3 PM
Sun., Jan. 4: 10:30 AM - 3 PM

Cong. Life continued from page 5

tails, contact Chaplain Chuck Trout at 714-971-4062 or chaptrout@aol.com.

Every Sunday on the Plaza!

The Becomers fellowship class invites you to enjoy free coffee, cookies, and warm fellowship between services weekly, 10:15-11:15 AM. See you on the Plaza!

Career Builders: December Speakers

Each Sunday in Tower of Hope, Floor 3, 9:30 - 10:30 AM, under the direction of Ken Inhelder, the Career Builders fellowship class offers a great lineup of speakers. You are invited to join in at anytime for insightful, biblically based personal growth presentations. This month:

- Dec. 7: Career Builders Toastmaster Club.
- Dec. 14: Marsh Engle on “The Essentials: Empowered to Share Your Passions with the World.”
- Dec. 21: Holiday party.
- Dec. 28: No Meeting.

HOUR OF POWER SUN

LIFETIME CABLE
8:00 AM EAST/PAC
7:00 AM CENTRAL

SAT TBN 6:00 PM PT
9:00 PM EASTERN
8:00 PM CENTRAL

ALSO SEEN ON NEARLY 100 STATIONS, CHECK YOUR LOCAL LISTINGS

Rancho Capistrano

The South Campus of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries

Holiday Dining Under Largest Nativity in the OC Celebrate Christmas at the Ranch

The Rancho Capistrano Conference & Retreat Center has rooms of all sizes for your Christmas celebrations. Weekends book quickly, so call now to reserve your date!

The sparkling lake and tree-lined paths, all decorated for the holidays, along with our award-winning chef's gourmet cuisine, will set the perfect atmosphere for worshipful celebrations of Christ's birthday. Choose from a special menu of holiday favorites such as bourbon glazed spiral ham; roasted prime rib with herbs and brandy sauce; honey apricot glazed breast of chicken; stuffed filet of beef with red pepper, spinach and bacon; filet of salmon with lemon and herbs court blanc; and roasted smoked turkey breast with oyster sage dressing.

Call 949-347-4000 and ask to speak to our conference sales manager, or e-mail seminars@ranchocapistrano.org.

Begin Your Marriage in God's Spiritual Oasis A Winter Wedding?

Rancho Capistrano offers many options for your dream winter wedding. Because we have so many different venues, you can have a magical wedding any time of year! Our private property provides a wedding oasis for you and your guests. Picture strolling mariachis at your hors d'œuvres reception, a string quartet in the sanctuary for your ceremony, and dancing the night away under the

stars at the plaza. Out-of-town guests will appreciate the overnight accommodations, and you may enjoy breakfast with them the next morning.

One way to save is by having your wedding ceremony in the morning, followed by a late morning or early afternoon reception. Not only is the facility fee lower than in the evenings, but meals are less expensive (think lunch prices versus dinner prices at your favorite restaurant). The sun is shining high in the sky, and in winter, it's a lot warmer! Call today for even more incentives - including a complimentary colored linen upgrade - that we are offering through December 31.

"The Ranch" is unique among wedding facilities; everything you need is in one beautiful place! Call our Wedding Department at 949-347-4000.

RC Christian School and Preschool Christmastime is a Special Time for Students

December is a month of special celebrations at Rancho Capistrano Christian Schools, which offers an innovative educational program to help preschool through 8th grade students experience their unique giftedness. With small class sizes and ability based learning programs, your child will discover what his or her unique gifts and talents are and apply them to his or her learning style to excel not only in academics, but in life as well.



Rancho Capistrano Christian Preschool is ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) accredited since May 2002. The ACSI evaluation team summarized their visit to the preschool by saying, "The best way we can sum up the essence of Rancho Capistrano Christian Preschool is the sense that Christ is meeting you at the gate and extending His hand to you with the greeting, 'Come and walk with Me!'"

There are still limited openings for the 2008-2009 school year, so come see where your child can experience enrichment of mind, body and spirit with our caring and dedicated teachers and Rancho Capistrano staff. For more information, please go to ranchocapistrano.org or call 949-347-4000.

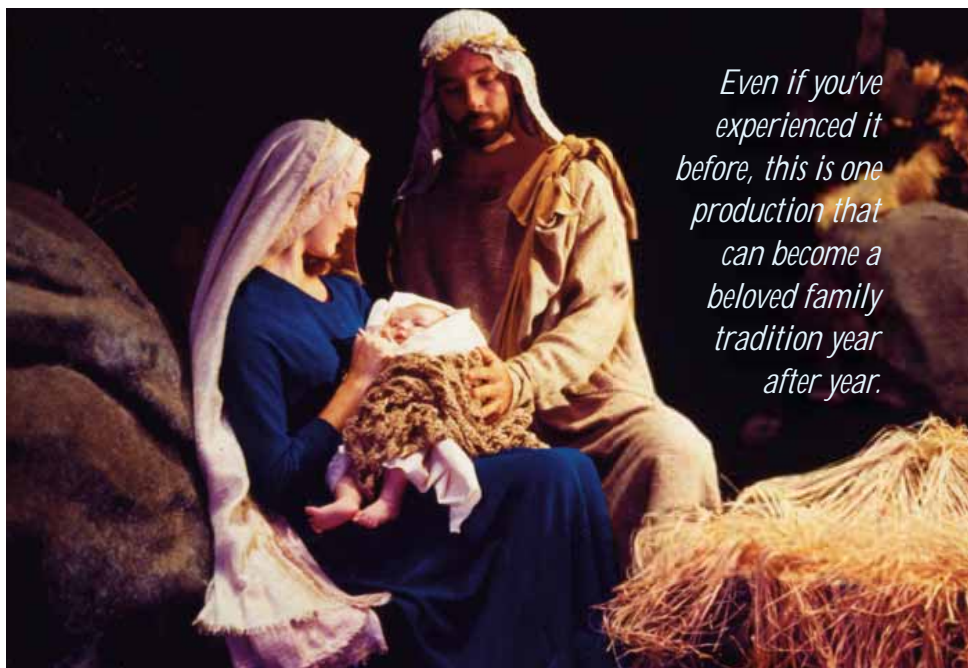
Compiled by Darlene Grimes, Marketing Director
949/347-4000 info@ranchocapistrano.org
www.ranchocapistrano.org
29251 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Glory continued from page 1

hearsals. More than 300 Crystal Cathedral volunteers dedicate over 160 hours annually as both cast members and volunteer ushers.

During the performances, eight angels fly, some as high as 80-feet and as fast as 25 miles per hour. Animals play an integral role in the production's recreation of the ancient land. You'll see one baby and three adult camels, six horses, a yak, a llama, a baby water buffalo, and many sheep and goats. Pre-recorded orchestration by the London Symphony Orchestra provides the musical backdrop for live performances by adult and child soloists. The Cathedral's world-renowned pipe organ also fills the all-glass structure with glorious sounds.

The Glory of Christmas continues through Sunday, January 4. Early reservations are required for good seating and dates. For information and reservations, call 714-54-GLORY (714-544-5679) or go online to www.crystalcathedral.org.



Even if you've experienced it before, this is one production that can become a beloved family tradition year after year.

serve the world

Global Community

AT CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Vacation with a Purpose

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, Africa, China, and more!

If you have a heart for bringing the love of Jesus to people in need around the world, please call 714-971-4194.

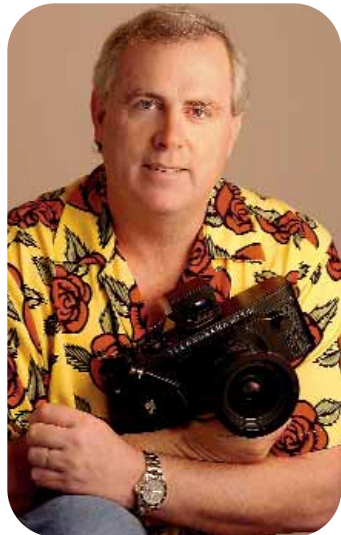
Join Crystal Cathedral friends doing good in the name of Jesus Christ.

CHINA PROJECT

Never Too Young to Care

By Mitchell & Zachary's Mom

Our family participated in a garage sale and our boys put their toys out. Mitchell (8) was saving his money for a motorcycle or something like that. The next day we watched the *Hour of Power* and heard Pastor Schuller talk about the wheelchairs needed in China. My husband and I decided to send \$35 to buy one wheelchair and then Mitchell and his brother Zachary (6) said they wanted to buy one, too, rather than spend the money they'd earned at the garage sale to "buy a dumb old toy."



HOUR OF POWER INTERNATIONAL

International Ministries: Celebrating Their Successes

Internationally acclaimed photographer Ken Duncan was the special guest speaker at a Possibility Thinkers' Soiree on Friday, November 28, at the Ken Duncan Gallery in Sydney, Australia. Guests enjoyed pre-dinner refreshments, as they viewed Ken's beautiful and inspiring work.

Upcoming event...the International Ministries Conference will be held at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, from February 7-14, 2009.



Celebrate continued from page 1

Each family, no matter how poor, would present a thank-you offering to the Baby in the manger. Then, at the end of the service, each child would be given the gift of a one-pound butter box filled with one orange, three pieces of peanut brittle, and five chocolates. The memories of those simple Christmases still fill our hearts with the wonder of the miracle of Christmas.

So, together, let us celebrate the gift of God's love, the joy of his faithfulness, and the peace of his presence. Our prayer is that you will have a merry heart this Christmas!

Services continued from page 1

this traditional event with family and Crystal Cathedral friends. Be sure to invite co-workers and neighbors who may be looking for a more meaningful way to celebrate Christmas this year.



Roger Williams

For your friends and relatives who live far away, check out TV and cable listings at www.hour-of-power.org/calendar/tvlistings for airtimes on Christmas Eve and Day, December 24 and 25. Let them know that more times and stations will be added as the celebration approaches.

Lockett continued from page 4

now had some tools to help me through the grief. Five years later, I remarried. Life was good again. However, we had been married for twelve years when my wife became ill, fell into a coma, and died within a week. I was 72 years old, depressed, and life was not good again.

In my loss, I remembered how much Crystal Cathedral's Divorce and Grief Recovery program had helped me nearly 20 years before, so I showed up for the new and improved course, starting with "phase two." Because most everyone seemed happier on the outside than I felt inside, I once again wondered if this was the place for me. I was assigned to a table with two facilitators and others who had lost a significant person. They listened as I shared and cried, and during the week, they phoned to see how I was doing. Soon life was worth living again. Because I had completed the program twice, I was able to become a facilitator.

I had found a sense of peace, but thought it would be just "me and my dog" for the rest of my life when one night after a Divorce and Grief Recovery session I invited the leader to join me at Hof's Hut for coffee. She joined me that night, then for another date, and then another. Now I'm happy to say that we've just celebrated our eighth wedding anniversary! Sharon is running Divorce and Grief Recovery for the 16th year, and I've continued as a facilitator.

Life is good again!

Christmastime can be a season of sorrow, but the true meaning of the season is knowing that Jesus came to give us hope. If this Christmas finds you struggling, remember there are always new beginnings and second chances. Remember, also, that you don't have to do it alone - we're here to help you at Divorce and Grief Recovery.

See page 11 for upcoming Divorce and Grief Recovery series details.

Five Tips for Emotionally Hard Holidays

If this holiday season finds you in a season of grief, here are some tips from Divorce and Grief Recovery leader Sharon Lockett:

Hold On! Even though it doesn't feel like it now, you will get through this and, some day, joy will return.

Look Up! Even when you can't feel it, you serve a God who loves you unconditionally and who understands.

Reach Out! Serve others. In giving to one in need, you are filling a void in your own life. It will help you heal.

Take Care! Be good to yourself. Buy yourself a gift. You deserve love and affection. In this season of life, it is okay to take care of you.

Cry! We try to stifle our tears, but tears clear out the cobwebs of our lives so we can see clearly again. Let the tears flow, and invite God into the place where they used to live.

MORE NEWS

CCA Production: "A Little Princess"

Enjoy this Crystal Cathedral Academy production of "A Little Princess," the story of the exceptionally clever, kind and generous little Sara who pretends she is a princess, striving to emulate the qualities of generosity, compassion, and politeness despite losing her mother at birth and her father to war. Performances will be held in the Freed Theater on December 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7 PM and Sunday matinees at 1:30 PM. Purchase your tickets at the door: Child/\$7, Adult/\$10. Don't miss this beloved children's classic!

Christmas Poinsettias: To Honor & Remember

Be a part of the wonder of the Christmas season here at the Crystal Cathedral with a gift of \$10 for a Christmas Poinsettia. Each year the Crystal Cathedral and campus are beautifully arrayed with the beauty of these symbolic flowers provided by members of our congregation in honor or memory, of their loved ones. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful tradition, please pick up a form at the Box Office and return it by Sunday, December 28.



From Your IRA: Make an Endowment Fund Gift

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, the main feature of which is the bailout package, also extends certain portions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that expired on 12/31/2007. The centerpiece of the legislation from a gift planning perspective is the IRA Rollover. This new law allows people who are 70 ½ years and older to make a current gift of up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA. Gifts made this way are not subject to income tax.

At 70 ½, owners of IRAs must begin taking taxable distributions from their plans. (Remember that IRAs were never intended to avoid taxes, only to defer them.) At 70 ½ it is time to pay the piper. Many people will, therefore, find it more advantageous to use their IRAs to make charitable gifts, than to make gifts from other resources.

This opportunity applies only to gifts made during 2008 and 2009. The transfer of the funds must be made directly by your plan administrator.

If you would like to further explore the possibility of supporting the Crystal Cathedral Congregation Endowment Fund, please call Bonnie Balloch at 714-971-4039.

Please also consider naming the Crystal Cathedral Congregation Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of a portion of the amount left in your IRA at the time of your death. Generally, it is better to leave IRA assets to charity, and cash and stocks to family.

Coyers continued from page 4

national economy or a business venture that didn't go well. They moved a couple of times for new opportunities and then settled in Waterloo, Iowa. That is where the unbelievable happened.

Their daughter Debbie was a beautiful, outgoing, popular, musically talented twenty-four year old married woman working as the executive secretary to the mayor of Waterloo, Iowa. Then one morning an intruder brutally murdered her. Jim and Cathy lost their precious youngest child on one horrendous day in 1979. Their lives were changed forever.

The murderer struck again a few weeks later and was caught. That led to his conviction for Debbie's killing, as well. Mike Moses is in prison for life in the Iowa State Penitentiary.

Words are inadequate to communicate what the death of one's child does to a father and mother. For Jim and Cathy Coyer it was a long time until life evened out somewhat after that tragic loss.

Cathy remembers the move from Waterloo to California as helpful. There were fresh challenges, different surroundings, fewer people asking and reminding. It all helped, as did the passage of time. "Only passing time really helps very much," Cathy reflected.

Two crossroads stand as significantly healing for the Coyers. Both are remarkable and powerfully important. One is Jim's and the other is Cathy's. They responded and suffered in different ways to the brutal murder of their child.

Cathy says she was totally broken. Depression, helplessness, and despair, incapacitated her. "I was sad all the time and just wanted to stay in bed and do nothing," she remembers. "I was totally destroyed by the death of my dear little girl." Cathy couldn't help but focus on their loss.

After moving to Southern California about five years after the murder, Cathy took a job as a caregiver of older folks who needed assistance. She became a companion, helper, and friend. Her job, in many situations, included cheering up the older man or woman. "That meant," she said, "that I had to act cheerful and put on happiness—even though I didn't feel that way at all. I was still depressed."

After some time passed, Cathy started to

realize she was feeling happier. One day Jim stopped to see her in her care-giving assignment and remarked about how cheerful she was. Cathy summarized what happened this way: "By pretending to be happy, for their sakes, I actually began to genuinely feel it." The profound lesson she discovered has enormous significance. **ACTING HAPPY CAN MAKE YOU FEEL HAPPY.**

Jim, on the other hand, was driven by revenge and hatred of the murderer. Both his response and Cathy's were valid and, in talking about their differences, Cathy said that she could understand why many marriages break up after the death of a child. "I should have gone to counseling," she says, "but Jim, looking at things differently, decided it wasn't necessary."

Instead, Jim clung to his rage and hatred toward the cold and

heartless murderer, a young married man. However, one evening he came home from his office with what seemed to Cathy like a different look on his face. Immediately he shared what had happened. He told her that on that very day he had mailed a letter of forgiveness to the murderer. He smiled as he said that the moment he dropped it in the mailbox, a feeling of relief came over him. His healing had started. Cathy says that it was obvious he was a healthier person from that day on.

No one had pushed Jim to do what he did. They did recall the suggestion of a friend who had talked about forgiving those who hurt you. However, the seed more likely had already been planted earlier in life, as Jim and Cathy had grown up in the church where forgiveness was a common theme. And, though Jim wrote the letter, Cathy also felt enormous relief. She had "given her hurt to God" years before in what was her own forgiving experience. She had felt a measure of peace when she realized that "God was taking my burden."

While talking about the profound act of forgiveness they managed to achieve, Cathy emphasized, "Yes, we did forgive him, but the pain is still there." Another vital life truth.

Jim and Cathy Coyer became members of the Crystal Cathedral congregation in 1984 and Cathy is still an active member of the Homebuilders Sunday fellowship class. Though Jim died in 2004, his letter, a lesson in forgiveness, continues to bless others in *Be Happy You are Loved*, a 1986 book by Robert H. Schuller.

She had felt a measure of peace when she realized that "God was taking my burden."

THE JOY OF GIVING

"One poor widow...gave two mites...
her whole livelihood" Mark 12:41-44

Saturday, December 6
8:30am – 10:30am

REMINDER:

ENTRANCE: If you RSVP'd by November 25, bring the invite you received in the mail as your ticket to the **Breakfast**.

PLACE: Crystal Cathedral Arboretum

WHY: "To honor YOU, our fabulous volunteer for your time and passion."

You're Invited!

Have your self a



little Christmas

*From them will proceed thanksgiving
And the voice of those who celebrate;
And I will multiply them and they will not
be diminished; I will also honor them and
they will not be insignificant.*

JEREMIAH 30:19



NICOLE'S NETWORK



connecting with your church community



The Glory of Christmas

Calling all good "Christmas" soldiers! Take part in this life-changing event by lending your time and talents to this annual production. Volunteers needed in many ministry areas including Traffic, Security, Usher, Greeter, Ticket stuffing/alphabetizing, and more.

Traffic Ministry Guides

Direct flow of traffic in the Crystal Cathedral parking lot. Greet and guide Sunday Service attendees, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.
KNOW how to give directions, LOVE smiling, SERVE our visitors

Hospitality Team Members

Come join in the fun with the "frontline" of the Crystal Cathedral! If you enjoy service, hospitality, and being an encourager, you are a great fit!
KNOW campus locations, LOVE helping others, SERVE our visitors & congregants

Kiosk Hosts/Hostesses

Greet people in need of information about programs or classes. Sundays, half-hour prior to service and 10 min. before end of service, then stay until replacement arrives.
KNOW campus info, LOVE communicating, SERVE our visitors

Tower Lobby Helpers

Assist in the Tower lobby between 9 AM- 4:30 PM. Answer visitors' questions and phones, direct people to the correct floor, monitor traffic, sort mail, etc.
KNOW points of contact, LOVE being helpful, SERVE people on campus

Crystal Cathedral Ushers

Assist churchgoers to their seats. Meet at either 8:30 or 10:15 AM for instruction and prayer. Be one of the first smiling faces someone sees at the Crystal Cathedral!
KNOW our church, LOVE congregation, SERVE hospitality team

Crystal Cathedral Tour Guides

Give guided walking tours of the Crystal Cathedral to visitors from around the world! Share your knowledge while you share your heart. Shifts available M - F, 9 AM - 4:30 PM, and Sundays as well!
KNOW our church, LOVE sharing, SERVE our visitors

REMINDER!

Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Breakfast this month! See invitation above.

VOLUNTEER ONLINE

at crystalcathedral.org/volunteer. Complete a profile and discover ways to become involved!
OR CALL Nicole Stephens, Dir. of Involvement & Service Ministry, at 714/971-4321.
OR E-MAIL nicoles@crystalcathedral.org.