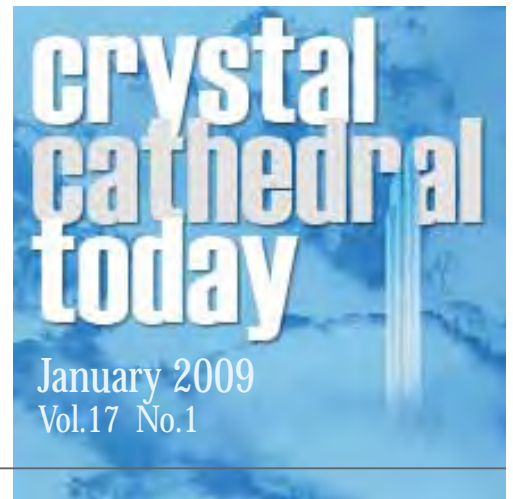


Come Close to God!

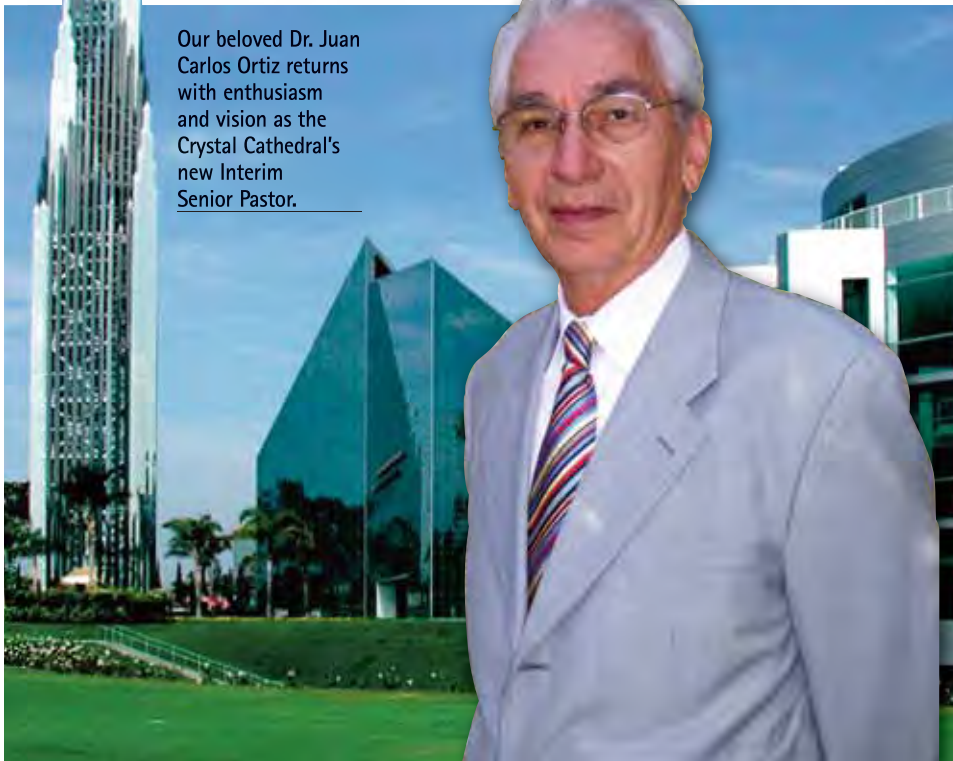
Suzette Caldwell travels all the way from Houston, TX, to lead a free "Becoming Closer to God" two-day retreat, Jan. 9-10. See pg. 4 for more details...



Sundays	2	Adult Fellowship . . .	10-11
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Family Ministries	8-9	Joy of Giving	16



A New Year Filled with Possibilities!



Our beloved Dr. Juan Carlos Ortiz returns with enthusiasm and vision as the Crystal Cathedral's new Interim Senior Pastor.

Juan Carlos Ortiz: Committed to the Local Congregation Seeing God in Everything

By Kyle Steven Bonenberger, C3 Worship Pastor

A passionate sixteen-year-old preacher in Argentina changes peoples' lives and is so dynamic and vibrant that a seminary grants special exemption to accept this young man with God's fingerprint on his life into their school. Who is this young man? Our new Interim Senior Pastor, Juan Carlos Ortiz.

By age twenty-three, Juan Carlos was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ at crusades in Argentina. "People today don't understand what crusades were like in the early days," Juan Carlos says. "There was no money. No bathrooms. No

clean place to sleep at night. I slept in train stations, parks — anywhere I could find shelter as I was traveling. I would bring my guitar and start singing and preaching about the love of God to anyone who would listen." Those who had come to know Christ during those crusades were cared for and discipled. Today, many of South America's largest churches credit their spiritual roots to Juan Carlos.

At age twenty-six, Juan Carlos married Martha Palau (evangelist Luis Palau's sister) and became the senior pastor of the largest evangeli-

Ortiz continued on page 12

Throughout the New Year...

Connect with God & Others

Now's the time to bring family and friends of all ages to the Crystal Cathedral to experience the warmth of fellowship and a deeper connection with our loving Lord.

In the Crystal Cathedral, top pastors and speakers from around the world will share the pulpit, blessing us with their inspiring and encouraging messages. This month: Juan Carlos Ortiz (Jan. 4), Suzette Caldwell (Jan. 11), and Bishop Kenneth Ulmer (Jan. 18).

The Crystal Cathedral's Learning Network is offer-



Connect continued on page 12

Rev. Bruce Larson: 1925-2008

Encourager, Visionary, Great Man of God

"There is probably no minister in my lifetime who did more to help me become a better person," said Dr. Robert H. Schuller about his dear friend, the Rev. Bruce Larson, who passed away on December 8, 2008, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.



"He was such a beloved friend, co-pastor, and like a brother to us," said Arvella Schuller. "Juan Carlos Ortiz, Bruce, and my husband have been prayer partners for many years."

After serving as an infantry sergeant in World War II, Bruce wrote dozens of books and helped to

Larson continued on page 12

sundays

in the Crystal Cathedral! 9:30 & 11 AM

Every Sunday, join Dr. Robert H. Schuller in the magnificent Crystal Cathedral to hear and see America's most exciting, positive preachers and thinkers – each, in their own unique, God-given way, inspiring you in heart and soul.

January 4

Juan Carlos Ortiz

Crystal Cathedral's Interim Senior Pastor sharing visionary ideas for the future of our local church.



Juan Carlos Ortiz

January 11

Suzette Caldwell

Popular speaker, author, and expert on the miraculous, life-changing power of prayer.



Suzette Caldwell

January 18

Bishop Kenneth Ulmer

The dynamic pastor of Faithful Central Bible Church's 20,000+ congregation in Inglewood, CA.



Kenneth Ulmer

February 1

Francis Chan

Pastor of Simi Valley's Cornerstone Church and creator of the popular on-line video, "Just Stop and Think."



Francis Chan

February 8

Bishop Charles Blake

Prolific author and pastor to 24,000+ members at L.A.'s West Angeles Church of God in Christ.



Charles Blake

ALSO COMING...

Nick Vujicic, March 1

John Maxwell, March 15 & 22

Michael Guillen, March 29



every sunday adult FELLOWSHIP

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.

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
Bible Study with Pastor Jim Kok continues. Everyone welcome! Bibles provided.

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.

New! **COLLEGE GROUP** 6-7 PM, Youth House
Devoted to diving into God's Word and connecting with others of college age. More details, pg. 10.

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
Enjoy refreshments, caring fellowship, music, in-depth Bible studies by Rev. Glenn DeMaster.

NEW COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP 11 AM, Art Gallery
Bible study led by Dr. Lawrence Wilkes.

NEW HORIZONS 11 AM, Tower-2
Bible study, prayer, missions, and fellowship are foundational to this friendly group led by James and Yvonne Richards.

RCA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP 9 AM, Tower-2
Join this friendly group led by Rebecca Caldwell for enlightening Bible and church doctrine studies, praise, and prayer.

REJOICERS 9 AM, FLC-127
This class for the developmentally disabled. Barbara Shimamura leads Bible studies and social activities.

MORE ON SUNDAY

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL CONTEMPORARY

- ▶ Live Contemporary Worship
- ▶ Live Feed of Morning Message & Guest!
- ▶ Live Connection with Friends!

11 AM, FREED THEATER

Hispanic Sunday Services
Encouraging services in Spanish with Dr. Luiz Lemos
1 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 Christian ministry
1:30 PM
IN THE ARBORETUM

child/student FELLOWSHIP
Children thru grade 5
Family Life Center
9:30AM, 11AM & 1PM

Jr. & Sr. High:
FLC-B22, 11AM

calendar of events

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

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<h2>january</h2>				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3
				4 <i>Glory of Christmas</i> closing night (1,3)		6 Veteran's Meeting (10)
11		13 Changes & Choices (4)	14	15 50+ Prime Time (11)	16	17
18	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	20 	21	22		
25 New Hope training begins (4,8)	26	27	28	29	30	31

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8	9	10 Finding Perfect Love (4)	11	12 Divorce & Grief Recovery begins (11) Travel Ministry Luncheon (10)	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16 PRESIDENTS DAY	17	18	19 50+ Prime Time (11)	20	21 <i>Coming...</i> Care & Kindness Conf.: 3/12-14 (6) Heritage of America Tour: 3/13-22 (11) Pageant of our Lord: 3/29 (11)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						<h2>february</h2>

becoming closer to
GOD

January 9 & 10
Fri. (6 - 10 PM) &
Sat. (9 AM - 3:30 PM)

FREE - all are encouraged to attend!
Two-day day retreat with Suzette Caldwell.
Watch bulletin and online for more details...



CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

An Evening Together

Sat., Feb. 7, 6 - 10 pm
\$100/couple

Renew your vows, plus dinner and dancing, and a word from John Townsend.

RSVP @ ocmarriage.com/info
or 949-752-2888

every week

at the Crystal Cathedral

monday

American Dream Builders, 7 PM, FLC-FH2 562-402-1424
Band of Brothers, 7 PM, FL 714-971-4236

tuesday

Cathedral Singles, 7 PM, FLC-3 714-971-4061
Jr. High, 7 PM, FLC-gym 714-971-4180
Women's NetWork, resumes 9/9, 9 AM, AG . . . 714-971-4080

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

Soul Food, resumes 9/12, 6:30 PM, FL 714-971-4240

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

Crystal Cathedral Today
By e-mail and online!
Go to www.crystalcathedral.org to subscribe to receive e-mailed links to this monthly publication, the #1 source of Crystal Cathedral information!



crystal cathedral today

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Crystal Cathedral people

CCA STUDENTS & STAFF: Promoting Water Conservation

By Carole Barber, Principal, Crystal Cathedral Academy

I am very excited to congratulate Crystal Cathedral Academy art teacher, Mrs. Hong, and four of our elementary students for winning the very prestigious WIN (Water Innovation Now) contest. Mrs. Hong entered our K-5 students the contest was sponsored by the Department of Education and challenged is designed to increase awareness about California's current water crisis and encouraged innovative problem-solving water conservation solutions.

There were over 540 entries and Crystal Cathedral Academy students won first and second place for the K-3 category. Christine Park (grade 2) took first place for her artwork entitled "Water is Important." Third graders Estefania Salas, Mya Shimizu, and Emily Vadercook won second place with their group project, "Life With and Without Water." The winners received their awards and had their artwork displayed at the UNESCO Global Conference on December 3, 2008, at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point Harbor.

Invitations were extended to Mrs. Hong, Mrs. Manson (Christine's teacher) and to Mrs.

Barber to attend the awards ceremony along with the winning children and their parents. Also in attendance were the Director of Urban Water Research, State Superintendent of California Schools, the County Superintendent of Schools, the Chief Deputy Director for Gov. Schwarzenegger, and UN delegates.

The children received many prizes provided by Frank Scura, Founder and Executive Director for Action Sports Environmental Coalition. The prizes included skateboards, hats, shirts, belts, bags, jackets, and all kinds of goodies. Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Hong, and Mrs. Barber were also honored to receive all kinds of prizes including a skateboard and even a laptop computer for the teacher.

We are so proud of Mrs. Hong and our talented children. We want to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Hong and the students who entered this contest. Becoming better stewards of God's gift of water is an undertaking well worth the effort of all involved.

TRUDI'S DAUGHTER CAROL: A Real Life-Brightener

By Dr. Jim Kok, Pastor of Care Ministries

Trudi Amerkhanian's daughter Carol was an exceptional person! Her sons said it with passion at her Memorial Service, as did everyone else who spoke about her. Those who knew her shared awesome reflections about her goodness, kindness, and helpfulness. One friend told about how Carol's pool man had once said to Carol, "I have two hundred customers. Do you think anyone else, of all those people, ever asks me, 'How are you doing?' And no one but you offers me a cold drink."

Carol and her sister, back in the '70s, helped start a Sunday School class for people with Down's Syndrome and other developmental disabilities. Helping was in her soul.

There is no heartache greater than losing one's child. Our deepest sympathy goes to Trudi, our former Women's Ministry Director (for three decades). Her daughter's life certainly reflects positively on Trudi, but the goodness that has left this earth is not only a profound loss to her, but to the human race. Carol brightened our world for a sparkling 53 years, and how blessed we were to know her.

Crystal Cathedral Academy students and staff were honored.



CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL LEARNING NETWORK

Interactive Study on Romans

Sundays, 11 am, FLC-435

FREE - Just drop in!

Returns
January 4

Join Executive Pastor, Dr. Jim Poit, on this interactive study through one of the most fascinating and life-changing books of the Bible. Bring colored pencils. For details, call 714-971-4080.

Soul Journey: Making Sense of a Chaotic World

Thursdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:30-8:30 pm, FLC-4

Fee: \$7/session; \$35/series

RSVP: 714-971-4084 or just show up!

Dr. Sandra Herron, Pastor and Communication Specialist, will show you how to make sense of the chaos of today's world and find breath-taking, life-giving peace. The bonus - deeper and kinder relationships and extraordinary success.

Becoming Closer to God

January 9 & 10

Fri. (6 - 10 pm) & Sat. (9 am - 3:30 pm)

FREE - all are encouraged to attend!

Save the
Date!

During this two-day day retreat, Suzette Caldwell, first lady of Windsor Village Methodist Church and popular speaker and author, will provide creative, interactive, and life-changing methods to grow closer to God using the "Lord's Prayer" as a guide. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details...

Changes & Choices: It's a New Year!

Tues., Jan. 13, 6:45 pm OR Fri., Jan. 16, 12:45 pm

TOH-3 Classroom

FREE, but please RSVP: 714-971-4123

Barbara Barrientos, New Hope Hotline Supervisor, will lead this interactive class designed to teach you how to move forward into the New Year, preparing for and accepting life's inevitable changes, and to set your vision for 2009 while being gentle with yourself in the process.

Learn to be Care-Full

Classes begin, Sun., Jan. 25, 2 - 5 pm

Info/RSVP: 714-971-4123

This New Year, learn how to bring a heart of caring into all of your relationships and then practice what you learn as a New Hope Counselor, responding to phone calls or Internet chats from people who need a listening ear, compassion, and prayer. Led by Dr. Bill Gaultiere, Dir. of New Hope, and Dr. Jim Kok, Pastor of Care Ministries.

Finding Perfect Love in an Imperfect World

Tues., Feb. 10, 12:45 PM OR Wed., Feb. 11, 6:45 PM

TOH-3 Classroom

FREE, but please RSVP: 714-971-4123

Everyone searches for that perfect love. Louise Dunn, New Hope Operations Manager, will help you discover the ultimate unconditional love that God has equipped you to share with others. Grow far beyond the limitations of our worldly relationships into the person he is calling you to become.

Congregational LIFE

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

CC Members: Connection Power

If you are a member of the local congregation and would like to access/update your information, contact other members, view online calendar, register for classes or events, and join groups online, call 714-971-4062.

COMMUNITY MISSIONS

Seeing Jesus in Toy & Food Drive Participants

By Gudelia Ramirez, Director, Community Missions

Christmas season had an acoustic impact in our community. *The Glory of Christmas* filled the Cathedral with hundreds of kids during two special "Children's Days," and with each child donating a can of food, more than 6,000 lbs. was collected. We shared the blessing with the Orange County Rescue Mission, Second Harvest Food Bank, Hispanic Ministry, and Community Missions.

Also, during December, instead of the annual Christmas tree lighting we held a Toy Drive, and on Thanksgiving a Food Drive. Congregants responded generously to help us to deliver a message of hope and love to those in need, and happiness to many children in the surrounding area. When Crystal Cathedral volunteers gathered to pack the toys, each worked with diligence and joy.

Every day during the Toy and Food Drive, the Cathedral was filled with reasons to celebrate the "Reason for the Season," Jesus' Birthday being the purpose of it all. Together we can make the difference, knowing that the word of God has a real min-

ing in people's life. And the best gift of all is that we hope with each delivery, those on the receiving end saw a bit of Jesus in us all!

FELLOWSHIP UPDATES

Join Other U.S. Veterans in January

The first Tuesday of every month, 12 - 2 PM on Tower of Hope, Floor 2, we offer U.S. veterans a forum to pay tribute to those who have contributed to uphold our right to freedom. Our goal is to educate and enlighten our youth about the sacrifices made by those who were called, and served, to defend and protect the United State of America. You're invited to meet for fellowship, updates, special speakers, and encouragement.

On Tuesday, January 6, our speaker will be Guy Baker, the coach of the U.S. Women's Olympic Water Polo Team that won Gold in last summer's world games in China. Bring your spouse and enjoy fellowship and interesting discussion. For details, contact Chaplain Chuck Trout at 714-971-4062 or chaptrout@aol.com.

Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show

Co-Chairs Marilyn DeMaster and Dorothy Gourley Shaw invite you to join them at a delightful Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show hosted by the Homebuilders Sunday Class on Saturday, March 7, 11:30 AM to 2 PM in the Arboretum. Spring's latest fashions will be modeled by women of Homebuilders and mothers and children of the Crystal Cathedral.

Pat Sutcliff, fashion expert, will facilitate the show, sharing spring's newest trends in clothing

styles and colors. Pat promises we will see a variety of '09 casual afternoon ensembles, sport wear, and elegant evening attire selected from Damon and Draper's Spring inventory. The children's fashions will be from various Orange County children's clothing stores.

A delicious lunch will be prepared by Pennington's and served by the men of the Homebuilders. Cost for the Luncheon and Fashion Show is \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children age 12 and under, or a table for 8 may be purchased for \$180. RSVP at the Box Office (714-544-5679) by 3/1/09. Early reservations are encouraged.

Prior to and during the event, raffle tickets for International Dinner Evenings (hosted in the homes of various Homebuilders with Chinese, Italian, Mexican or All American fare), will available for 10 for \$10 or 20 for \$15.



WEDDING MINISTRY

CELEBRATE
MARRIAGE WEEK 2009
AND YOUR OWN MARRIAGE
WITH

*An Evening
Together*

Hosted by:

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL
crystalcathedral.org



During the Toy and Food Drive, Crystal Cathedral volunteers of all ages helped gather, box, and deliver the gifts with joy in Jesus' name.

Celebrating Marriage

Sat., Feb. 7, 6 - 10 PM
Cost: \$100/couple
RSVP @OCmarriage.com/info
or 949-752-2888

Enhance your relationship with vow renewals in the Crystal Cathedral and dinner and dancing in the Arboretum, closing with celebrity speaker John Townsend. Sponsored by the Crystal Cathedral, OC Healthy Marriage Coalition & Relationship Research Foundation.

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.



PRAYER

Need Prayer?

Whenever you or a loved one are struggling, grieving, hoping, or dreaming, here are some ways to connect your need with Crystal Cathedral friends in prayer:

New Hope: Call 714-NEW-HOPE or go online to www.newhopenow.org (in a private chat room) to speak with a counselor who will encourage you and pray with you.

General Requests: Call Care Ministry at 714-971-4031 or forward your prayer request to careministry@crystalcathedral.org.

Bulletin Requests: If you would like your praise, prayer, or condolence to appear in the Sunday bulletin, call Care Ministry at 714-971-4031 or forward your request to careministry@crystalcathedral.org.

Online Prayer Community

Crystal Cathedral's online Prayer Community was founded on the scripture verse: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). As a body of believers, God has called each of us to pray... and to pray for one another, simply talking with and listening to God. It can be done privately or with other believers - any time and anywhere. We invite you today to join our online Prayer Community at crystalcathedral.org to:

- Submit prayer requests to community or confidential prayer team.
- Respond electronically to others' prayer requests of.
- Maintain your own Prayer Journal of prayer requests, responses, and prayers for others.

- Develop spiritual friendships with other participants.
- Grow in your understanding of prayer through online resources.

This truly is an international community of prayer, binding the Church of Jesus Christ together, lifting each other up while worshipping and praising our unfailing and always-loving Lord.

DR. KOK'S KORNER

Believe it or Not, This Happened

Two years ago in 2006, I attended my college class reunion. I enjoyed meeting a couple of dozen of my old classmates, some of whom I had not seen in fifty years. As we were breaking up and heading for home, I happened upon Marilyn. We chatted a little and, as we began to part, I said, "You know, you are as beautiful as you ever were." She glowed, thanked me, and we said goodbye.

This past October, I was speaking on Care and Kindness at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan. There I met a woman named Shirley who shared that she was Marilyn's sister, and told me that the compliment I had paid in the college parking lot over two years earlier had "changed Marilyn's life." Shirley shared that it had charged her up, strengthened her confidence, and caused her to come alive in a whole new way.

Nothing has happened in the last dozen years, as powerful as that report to assure me and motivate me to go on speaking encouragement, appreciation, and loving-kindness everywhere I go.

(See the full article and other encouragements at "Kok's Korner" blog online at <http://ccmcare.blogspot.com>.)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

CARE & KINDNESS

SAVE THE DATE:
March 12-14, 2009

Care & Kindness Tip: "Loving Back"

There's a terrific new program for younger folks with elderly parents or senior friends. Designed by two Christian people who want to make care available, you can find it at www.lovingback.com. It is free! It is planned to help people find the needed resources, all checked for quality and integrity, including medical care, residential facilities, definitions, and opinions.



CARE & KINDNESS CONFERENCE

Conference Details & Registration Online

More details are being updated weekly at www.careandkindness.org. There you will find all about our next Care and Kindness Conference, designed to help us all be "the light of the world" as Jesus called us to be. Speakers this year include:

Dr. Robert Emmons, author of *Thanks and professor at the University of California-Davis, is the leading researcher on the benefits and skills of being actively grateful every day of the week.*

Dr. William La Fleur, from The University of Pennsylvania, teaches *Comparative Religions*. Living side-by-side with one of the largest Vietnamese population outside of Saigon, most of whom are Buddhists, he enlightened on how to show loving kindness to this wonderful group of people.

David Kinnaman has unsettling evidence that Christians are not held in high esteem by those outside the church. Presenting much of what is found in his book, *UnChristian*, he will share his research and the solutions to this dilemma.

In addition, enjoy these other fine speakers with dynamic topics that will help us keep our lights shining brightly: Robby V. Schuller, Rebecca Caldwell, Vicki Orr, Annette Craig, Jan Pfeffer, and Dick Innes.

The Care & Kindness Conference 2009 will be held March 12 - 14 in the beautiful Arboretum. For more details and to register, call 914-971-4032, or e-mail careministry@crystalcathedral.org.

NEW HOPE

Learn to be Care-Full

This New Year, learn how to bring a new heart of caring into all of your relationships and then practice what you learn as a New Hope Counselor, responding to phone calls or Internet chats from

Care continued on next page

Dr. Jim Kok, Pastor of Care Ministry
Dr. Bill Gaultiere, Director of New Hope

Care continued from previous page

people who need a listening ear, compassion, and prayer. Led by Dr. Bill Gaultiere, Director of New Hope, and Dr. Jim Kok, Pastor of Care Ministries. Classes begin, Sun., Jan. 25, 2 - 5 PM. Info/RSVP: 714-971-4123.

"New Hope" Online

Visit www.newhopenow.org to find helpful articles, enlightening self-tests, and a link to online counseling with a trained counselor in a private chat room.

Facing the New Year with Hope

By Dr. Bill Gaultiere, Director, New Hope

When the holidays are over and we go back to our normal daily routine, for some people it's a time of loss. What happens when it's time to go back to "normal"?

The holidays have come and gone. We've said goodbye to family and friends. The parties are over and the bills are coming in! The cookies have been eaten and the scale has gone up! Once again our experiences didn't live up to our magical memories from childhood. For some, the holidays were disappointing because they were lonely. Or being with family was stressful. Or past holiday hurts and memories came flooding back. And now, we return to our same old routine and life problems that we set aside during the holidays.

It's no wonder we're prone to suffer this time of year after exhausting ourselves rushing from thing to thing, putting on a smile that says, "Ho! Ho! Ho!" when what we really feel is, "Oh, no! Oh, no!" If you're feeling that let down or if facing the New Year has you feeling discouraged...

1. **Accept where you're at.** Admit to your challenges and see them as an opportunity to grow personally and spiritually.

2. **Take a step.** Positive change starts by taking one step in the right direction! Pick one thing to work on today!

3. **Talk about it.** You're not alone – others do feel like you do – so don't try to bear your struggles alone. Share your feelings with a caring listener.

4. **Pray about it.** You can talk to God as David does in the Psalms; open your heart to share whatever you're feeling. Then listen for his loving words!

5. **Get outside yourself.** Open your eyes and ears to other people who need help. God can use you to encourage someone else and doing so will energize you for dealing with your challenges too.

6. **Plan to do next Christmas differently!** Set realistic expectations, acknowledge your limits, and invest in good relationships that will help you celebrate the reason for the season: Jesus!

(Read this full article and other helpful articles at newhopenow.org.)

Care continued on page 15

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL SCHOOLS

PRESCHOOL

FULLY ACCREDITED & FIVE-STAR RATING!

By Marlene Kikta, Preschool Director

Recognized in Orange County with a Five-Star Preschool rating, the fully accredited Crystal Cathedral Preschool offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum for children ages 2-5.

Open from 7 AM until 6 PM, Monday through Friday, the school features a loving Christian environment, low teacher/child ratios, low staff turnover, and a remarkable facility. Please stop by the preschool, located on the first floor of the Family Life Center, any time to visit, or call 714-971-4141 for more details.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOLS

A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

By Sheila Coleman, Director of Family Ministries

In the fall of 1977, Arvella Schuller started a new school model: a private Christian school with excellent academics with the arts and Bible as part of the core curriculum for every student. In the nearly 30 years since, the Crystal Cathedral Academy expanded to include an excellent middle school and outstanding high school.

The elementary, middle and high schools have all received the highest accreditation report possible by Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The high school, which is only in its sixth year, has already had students accepted at Eastman School of Music, USC School of Architecture, and pre-medicine, just to name a few.

Educating and encouraging students in grades K-12, 7 AM until 6 PM, Monday through Friday, at the Crystal Cathedral Academy and High School, positive values are developed, creativity is valued, friendships are formed, love is alive, and Jesus Christ is Lord. For more information,

go to crystalcathedral.org/academy, or call 714-971-4158.

STUDENT OUTREACH

SPREADING CHRIST'S LOVE AT CHRISTMAS

By Carole Barber, Principal, Crystal Cathedral Academy

On Monday morning, Dec. 2, the CCA Chorus woke up their beautiful voices, put on a bright green Operation Christmas Child (OCC) T-shirt, and boarded a bus headed for the OCC warehouse to sing for a press event with Franklin Graham, the son of Billy Graham, who founded and leads the organization.

Upon arrival, the children were placed on the stage, warmed up their voices, and started singing for a Fox-11 News crew. During the official press event, the children sang again, and Franklin Graham and Pastor Chuck Smith shared about the importance of the OCC shoebox gifts that are sent to children in need around the world. A few of our students participated in the opening prayer and in a formal interview. The children were able to meet a former orphan from Russia who once received an OCC gift box as a child, is now a recently adopted daughter living in America, and now knows Christ!

It was a wonderful morning filled with singing and lots of love wrapped up in thousands of shoeboxes! Some of the shoeboxes were donated by the Crystal Cathedral Academy and High School students as part of our annual partnership with OCC. On Friday, Dec. 5, the high school students helped pack the Christmas boxes at OCC's Santa Ana warehouse. We are so grateful to Mrs. Rose Polanco who always heads up this effort for CC Schools. We are so blessed to serve God through this wonderful project that spreads the love of Christ all over the world.

