



Newsletter

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From the Pastor
By Pastor Chris

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Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13:13 (NIV)

4th - Leadership Meeting - 5:00 p.m.
 7th - Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.
 - Choir Practice - 6:00 p.m.
 - Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
 8th - Bunko - 7:00 p.m.
 10th - EBBA Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
 11th - Valentine Luncheon - 12:30 p.m.
 12th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
 14th - Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.
 - Choir Practice - 6:00 p.m.
 - Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
 16th - Spiffy Spoofters - 5:00 p.m.
 18th - Lord's Supper - 6:00 p.m.
 19th - President's Day
 21st - Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.
 - Choir Practice - 6:00 p.m.
 - Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
 22nd - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.
 24th - Men's Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.
 - Women's Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.
 26th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.

Calendar

February

12th - Eugene & Betty Ivey



1st - Rena Harrelson
 6th - Billie Bishop
 7th - Stacie Kopet
 10th - Pat Harrelson
 12th - Pauline Ford
 - Jonathan Jefferson
 18th - Eugene Ivey
 20th - Kim Foreman
 21st - Ruth Cavin
 23rd - Marty Stary Pardue



MINISTRIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Valentine Luncheon



We are planning a valentine luncheon on Sunday, February 11th at 12:30 p.m. This luncheon is for everyone so plan on coming out and have some fun. If you are planning on attending we ask that you please sign up so we know how many people will be celebrating valentines with us.



Fellowship – The women of the church are getting together each month to plan new ministries. If you have any suggestions please let us know. This month you are invited to come join us *on Saturday, February 24th*. We hope you can come and fellowship with us.

Ministry – Our December ministry project was to send to Africa 150 purses made by two of our members. Our church also donated items to fill the purses. These were given to Pastor Foreman who passed them on to students at the University of Rwanda. We thank all who participated.

Our ministry group is still active in helping the Women's Crisis Center with different

Calling All Men!



Saturday,
February 10th
8:30 a.m.

Chosen Vessels Church
710 Haight Avenue
Alameda

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Please RSVP by February 2nd to
510-613-8160 or jthornell@ebba.org

Speaker for First Event: Men's Ministry Director, Pastor Port Wilburn will give his testimony about lessons he learned from his brief time in the NFL "From the Football Field to the Pulpit."

This is a great time for fellowship with men from other East Bay churches. Please join us!



Prayer Chain

We are now starting an e-mail prayer chain. The prayer chain is for those people who would like to be notified of people who need our prayers. If you would like to be added please contact Roberta King by sending an e-mail to roberta_king@comcast.net and she will add you to the prayer chain.

Come Into His Presence

Annual EBBA Women's Retreat



March 16-18th
Mt. Hermon,
CA

The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
Exodus 33:14

Mt. Hermon is one of the most beautiful places on earth! Nestled among California's towering redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains just 6 miles from the Pacific Ocean and Monterey Bay. Registration and money must be turned in to the church office no later than Sunday, February 11th.

Attention Men



You are invited ...

Saturday,
February 24th

9:00 a.m.

Vasiliki's Restaurant – Hayward



Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm



Wednesday Prayer Meeting
11:00 am

Jubilee for East African Ministers

A group of three from *Come & See Africa* just returned home on January 12 after leading a successful 4-day conference. I want to thank all of you at First Southern who sewed together pencil cases, who prayed, and who donated money and material. Let me tell you about this conference.

From January 2 to January 5, 2007, about one hundred students gathered at the University of Rwanda for the first *Jubilee for East African Ministers*. This group of future African leaders included about 50 students from Rwanda, 20 from Congo, 15 from Uganda, 4 from Burundi, and a few from Kenya and Nigeria. All of our feedback has been positive and we hope to make this conference an even greater event in January 2008. In their evaluations participants noted three great benefits.

First, there was great teaching. I was blessed to teach about the First & Great Commandment [love God] and the second commandment [love others]. My brother, Frank, taught from the book of Acts, noting that the emerging church in Africa is like a "baby" with many of the growing pains that are described in the Acts of the Apostles. Students also enjoyed teaching from local speakers on topics such as "Politics and Religion", "The Role of Women in the Church" and "Christian Courtship".

Second, there was reconciliation; especially among people from different nations. For many participants, this was their first opportunity to speak and pray with students from a neighboring country. The international mixing is particularly beneficial in a part of the world where cross-border wars still threaten peace and contribute to poverty. During one session, students from one nation huddled around students from another. They prayed for their neighbors personally and then prayed for peace and prosperity in their nation. It was an awesome sight.

Third, there was networking. So many good things took place "below the radar". While sharing meals and rooms, students from around this Great Lakes Region of Africa also shared emails and addresses. We are confident that many long-term friendships were forged at this first *Jubilee for East African Ministers*.

We at CASA believe that the solution to Africa's problems cannot be found in foreign aid. Africa's hope lies in the hands of future leaders that now study in universities. We can't think of a more critical mission than implanting the Gospel of Christ into the hearts of those who will lead their nations.

"Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform"

Michael C. Balsley – Grandson of Annabelle Hibbs of Jean Johnson
Branch – Army **Rank** – Private First Class
Assignment – Iraq

Mike Brown – Son-In-Law of Al & Jane Thornell
Branch – Marines **Rank** – Master Sergeant
Assignment – Stationed in Miramar

Jenny Merritt – Great Niece-in-law
Branch – Marines **Rank** - Corporal
Assignment – Iraq

Todd Shaw – Son of Bob & Caryl Shaw
Branch – Army **Rank** – Staff Sergeant
Assignment – 101st Airborne Special Forces

Devon Henesley – Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch – Navy **Rank** – Petty Officer 3rd class
Assignment – Overseas

Kevin Seigal – Son of Elliott & Teresa Seigal
Branch – Air Force **Rank** – Sergeant
Assignment – Travis Air Force Base

Nate Fielding – Grandson of Lillian Fielding
Branch – Army **Rank** – PFC Medic
Assignment – Iran