

Tahoe Community Church

Notes, Announcements, Needs and Reminders

October 2017

Worshiping Together, Making Disciples, Reaching our World



It's Shoebox Time

By Karen Beverage

We are just 2 weeks away from kicking off our annual Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoebox drive. Please continue to pray for Tahoe Community Church to reach a God-sized goal with this mission project.

A few changes have happened this year for the boxes. Because of changes in importing regulations in the countries our boxes are shipped to, toothpaste and candy are no longer permitted. Also there has been an increase in the shipping cost from \$7 a box to \$9 a box. Please remember that the \$9 includes "The Greatest Journey" a gospel presentation in the recipient's native language.

Our shoebox packing party will be on November 11th at 1:30 pm in the MPR. Depending on what is donated we will be packing at least 150 boxes. There are now 4 ways to contribute to our packing party:

1. Donate \$10 each to Stuff a Box
2. Donate \$9 each to Ship a Box
3. Donate items to fill our boxes (see the list below)
4. Come out and pack boxes with us on November 11th

OCC Gospel Opportunity Boxes (GO Boxes) and donation envelopes will be available starting Sunday October 15th.

This is what we pack into each box

- Spiral notebook, coloring book
 - Pens, pencils, crayons
 - Pencil sharpener, sticker sheet
 - Soap, washcloth
 - Tooth brush, comb or brush, hair clips
 - Beanie baby, tennis ball, cars or jewelry
 - Socks and underwear
- A personal note from the packer to the recipient
\$9 for shipping and lots of prayer

Sunday Worship Schedule

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|------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | Sunday Morning Study Classes |
| 9:30 a.m. | Praise Team Warm Up in Sanctuary |
| 10:10 a.m. | Coffee/Fellowship Time in MPR |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship Service (Nursery and Children's Church Available) |
| 5:00 p.m. | Youth Group in the MPR |

Weekly Church Activities

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|---------------------|--|
| Wednesday 7:00 a.m. | Men's Bible Study Fellowship at Lakeside upstairs restaurant |
| 8:30 a.m. | Prayer Gathering in Sanctuary |
| 3:30 p.m. | Awesome Kids |
| 6:00 p.m. | Praise Team Practice |
| Thursday 9:00 a.m. | Women's Morning Study |
| 5:30 p.m. | Women's Evening Study |
| 6:00 p.m. | Men's Bible Study |
| Friday 2:30 p.m. | Food Pantry |



Church Debt

In the September news letter we reported that our Church debt was \$33,000. Since then, we have received enough donations to bring our debt down to \$18,935.90. Praise the Lord!

Please remember that any amount given to debt reduction should be above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings.

- Budget Report- Our church fiscal year ended on September 30, and we finished approximately \$3,292 above our projected budget. Next years budget will be discussed at the November meeting.



“God Files Defamation of Character Lawsuit Against Church”

Submitted by Mondo Gonzales

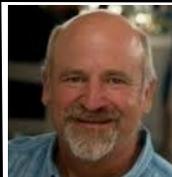
Ok... this really didn't happen, but I think there is plenty of evidence today for God to do such a thing. What do I mean by this? Defamation has the idea of misrepresenting or slandering someone's character or words through publication or some other form of communication. Also, when I speak of the church, I speak of the church in general throughout all of America. How has the church defamed God's Character? In answering this question it is absolutely essential to understand accurately what the character of God is. God has revealed to us in the Bible exactly what His character or attributes are and when the church, which bears the full responsibility for proclaiming this to the world, begins to depart from what He has revealed, we defame Him.

The Bible tells us that in the last days, the church “will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). I think we are seeing this fulfilled in our present time. We live in a time when the “church” in general has departed from the authoritative teaching of God's Word and instead turned aside to a style of preaching that is not meant to proclaim sound doctrine. In fact, “doctrine” has become a dirty word in many churches and the Bible tells us that people will not endure sound doctrine, but will turn away from the truth. John MacArthur comments on this trend when he says, “There are plenty of gifted communicators in the modern evangelical movement, but today's sermons tend to be short, shallow, topical homilies that massage people's egos and focus on fairly insipid subjects like human relationships, “successful” living, emotional issues, and other practical but worldly—and not definitively biblical—themes. These messages are lightweight and without substance, cheap and synthetic, leaving little more than an ephemeral impression on the minds of the hearers.”

We find God's response and instruction to this in 2 Timothy 4:2, where we are commanded to preach the Word and nothing else. Well... how does this work for those who aren't pastors? Let me encourage you to be bold in sharing the truth of the Gospel personally. I don't believe this verse applies only to pastors, because the word “preach” means to proclaim.

(God Files... cont.)

How are you doing in your proclamation of the gospel to those around you? Let me give you a concrete example. I was listening to a Christian radio station the other day and they were proclaiming the “gospel”. Yet what I heard was a misrepresentation or distortion of who God is. They spoke rightly of the love of God and also that God has a plan for our lives, but the person stopped there. That is not the full explanation of the gospel. I felt cheated. There was no proclamation of God's holiness, our sinfulness, and God's wrath to come. No call for repentance on the part of the sinner to avoid God's punishment. The church is misrepresenting God and the gospel when we take away those things that are deemed offensive. The gospel is offensive (Matt 10:34; Gal 5:11) and we need to share about who God is. Have you noticed that people spend more time talking about God's love than His holiness or justice? The Bible never proclaims that God is “loving, loving, loving”, but instead “holy, holy, holy” (Isaiah 6:3; Rev 4:8). Is God loving? Of course He is (1 John 4:8), but Jesus spoke more of repentance and fear of God (Matt 4:17; 10:27-28) than of the love of God. Let's get back to the Biblical example and model. When Jesus presented the gospel to people, He did not speak directly very often about the love of God, but instead on the person's sin and need for repentance. The fact that they get a chance to repent is evidence of God's love. Examine the book of Acts when Peter or Paul present the gospel and you will not find a reference to God's love, but instead a command to repent (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; 26:20). This is a biblical call to the church, both leaders and lay people (myself included), to make sure we don't defame God, by proclaiming all of who He is, the good and the severe (Romans 11:22).



Sunday Study Class

By Elder Bob Daly

The 9:00 am Sunday Study Class is currently doing a series on “The Apostles' Creed - Together We Believe” by Matt Chandler. This study goes through an in-depth examination of the primary tenets of Christianity.

The Apostles' Creed was born from the apostles' teachings. It contains essential doctrines and beliefs that summarize the gospel and the foundation of our faith. The scriptural truths contained in the creed enable us to build our Christian lives on good theology, with the knowledge that our faith is rooted in truth and a rich history.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this weekly class and enjoy a great time of bible study and fellowship. Coffee and snacks are provided.



Missionary News & Prayer

by Carol Borsos

For more details, and photos on missions, check out the bulletin board in the church lobby.

Mirco & Nada Andreev Macedonia and the Balkins

- Pray as Mirco, Marino and other ministry leaders introduce their "Vision of 100 New Churches" to all the believers of the Evangelical Church of Macedonia.
- From Oct. 13-19 they are having a visit of a group of Pastors from Germany. They will visit Balkan churches and they want to develop a cooperation with the Evangelical Church of Macedonia. Pray for travel mercies and God's Providence with all they will see and hear.
- From Oct. 16-20 there will be TEN conferences in Sofija, Bulgaria with several Pastors and their spouses from Macedonia. Pray as God encourages and exhorts them in their work for the Gospel.
- On Oct. 29 There will be a special service to celebrate the 500 years of The Reformation. (Martin Luther posted his 95 thesis on Oct. 31, 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany.) Many people are invited to this service and they have a confirmation from the President of the country that he will be present.
- Pray for Mirco for the Lord to give him strength and good health. He has had diabetes for many years and struggles with his weight.

Tim & Susan Driscoll Japan church planters/currently on USA home assignment

- Pray for energy and health as we aren't quite 100%. Of course we are thankful for Tim's regular heartbeat and good reports from the doctor!!
- Pray for wisdom as we plan and take on a 5,000 mile/4 week road trip to visit supporting churches and family. Pray for good times with our kids.
- Pray God would use us in the lives of those we talk to and talk with. We are praying this year that God would use us significantly in the lives of 10 people to "go" overseas short or long term.
- Pray for grace to be "on top" of all the details with recent medical expenses (claiming with secondary insurance, getting reimbursed, etc. It can get a little complicated with different systems and ways of doing things on the Japan field and U.S. home side.) Pray for God's continued provision.
- Pray for a time Tim and Susan can visit us here at Tahoe Community Church during their 1 year USA home assignment.



Women's AM Study

The Thursday morning women's study group meets at 9:00am in the Multi-purpose room. The title of their current study is "The Real God," by Chip Ingram which is an in-depth study on the seven attributes of God. This study includes a 30 minute video each week that goes along the lesson the study guide. This session will last for 9 weeks For more information please contact Kathy Pavich, Carol Borsos or Tootie O'Malley.

Women's Thursday PM Study

What would your life be like if you gave all your hopes, doubts, hurts, and dreams to God? Discover how God pursues and cherishes you through a new 10 week Bible study, "Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith", by Julie Clinton. The group meets at 5:30 PM in the MPR. A meal is shared at the start of each weekly session. Please contact Liz Cordero for more information.



Living Proof Live Beth Moore

Worship by Travis Cottrell
October 6-7, 2017

- Experience a unique message
- Invest in a weekend that will encourage, challenge, and change you.
- Hear a unique message specifically prepared for your city.
- Worship with Dove Award-winning worship leader Travis Cottrell.
- Laugh, pray, and study scripture with thousands of women from all walks of life.
- Leave with a renewed sense of calling, purpose, and love for Christ.

Registration Information

Phone: 800.254.2022 Fax: 615.251.3730 Mail: Living Proof Live, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37202

New Men's Evening Bible Study

The Thursday night men's group has just started a study called "**Behold Your God**" by John Snyder. This is a 12 week study that focuses on God's self-revelation in the Bible. Helping the believer to apply the descriptions of God to all of life.

The men gather at 6:00 pm each week. They share a meal, and dive into God's word!

Be Doers, Not Hearers Only...



**From Ryan and Daniel Stauffer,
Missionaries we support in Lima Peru.**

CS-Lima started its 16th school year on August 3rd, 2017. As of today, we have 141 students enrolled from 23 different nations (praise God!). Danielle and I have been overwhelmingly busy with moving, being pregnant, raising a toddler, and normal day-to-day ministry and work. Praise God that He has brought our school from close to 120 students to 141 in just two months (with several more in the admissions process at this moment)! ¡Gracias a Dios por todas las bendiciones! His hand can be seen in many ways in just these first two months of school.

Before each year the school's administration prays about the year's theme verse. After much discussion and prayer, we chose James 1:22, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." This verse depicts two major parts of a believer's life; hearing (or listening to) God's word, and obeying God's word. As Christian teachers our goal is to teach the word of God and to teach students how to be doers of the word of God - in thought and deed! As missionary teachers we have an opportunity to teach students from varying socioeconomic, cultural, and language backgrounds the truth of Christ and the cross. We rely on your prayer and support

Spiritual Emphasis Week

This week is Spiritual Emphasis Week! Although students are taught Bible daily at our school, this week we set aside specific time to focus upon the gospel and spiritual growth of our students. Secondary students have a conference style event with guest speakers and time for discussion in small groups while elementary students have Vacation Bible School format. Please specifically be praying for the salvation and discipleship of our students this week! May God transform their hearts to become worshipers and His disciples!

Praises and Prayers:

Praise God for His provision in providing 30 new students the first couple month of school. We are grateful to have more students to disciple and share the gospel!

- Pray for continued growth of more students especially in the middle school and high school.

- Praise God for a new home to live in for the year big enough to host families and staff members. We were able to host the entire staff for a prayers are worship night around a bonfire this past weekend.

- Praise for a weekly preschool group Danielle has started in our home. Pray for these little 1-3 year olds as they grow and are taught about God each week and for their families.

-Praise God that baby Lydia is almost here! Pray for continued health and a safe delivery for Danielle and our baby girl!

- Praise God for a second year as the elementary school principal for Ryan and for the many great changes he has helped to implement for our school this year. Pray for wisdom, strength, and continued reliance upon our great God as Ryan leads the school.

- Pray for servants hearts for the teachers especially when trials come and for unity that comes from Christ.

- Pray for this week's upcoming Spiritual Emphasis Week where students spend extra focused time learning of God and having time to reflect upon their spiritual life.

- Pray for salvation for our students and their families. Pray for our marriage to remain strong with Christ as center.

- Pray for wisdom and strength from God as we learn and grow as parents of two little girls.

Announcements

- **Fellowship Meal:** Our next fellowship meal will be on Sunday November 5th at 12:00 pm in the MPR.

- **Church Business Meeting:** Our next Business meeting will be held on Sunday, November 5th, following the fellowship meal. The topic will be budget and finance.



Anabel-and-A Personal Note A shoe box Story

Editors note: I like this story because it stresses the importance of including a personal note and your contact

information in your shoe boxes. Karen and I have a whole scrapbook of correspondence we have received back from shoebox recipients.

A personal note meant the most to me when I received a shoebox gift in the Dominican Republic

Love—that's the word that jumped out to me on the note written in big, red print by Brittany, age 13. I didn't know how to read English at the time in the Dominican Republic, but I recognized the word love: "God loves you! Love, Brittany."

Two photos accompanied the note—one of Brittany with her parents, simply identified as mom and dad, and one of Brittany with her younger brothers, Austin and Brandon. That's all that I know about the family who packed my shoebox gift—besides that they packed the gift filled with the love of God. There was no last name; no email or address. I long to meet this family who packed my shoebox with God's love so I can tell them how much that still means to me.

"I long to meet this family who packed my shoebox."

My dad, a pastor, started our church with nine members meeting in a backyard. Each January 6, the church hosted an "El Día del Niño" (Children's Day) celebration. The puppet show, cake, and soda were typically our special gifts at Christmastime. But when I was about 9 years old, the Children's Day celebration included a surprise—Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. While handing them out, the church members told us that someone made our shoebox gift especially for us. That stuck with me, especially after seeing the family in the photos.

"My shoebox packing always starts with a note and a photo."

My shoebox included socks, soap, and a toothbrush—things that, now as an adult, I also love to put in the shoeboxes I pack. All children can use these things. I also received a stuffed animal, a coloring book, a notebook, and crayons—items I also pack in shoeboxes to make each child feel special. My shoebox packing always starts with a note and a photo—I put those in the shoeboxes first.

My dad used to tell my sisters and me, "Everything belongs to God; nothing belongs to us." Sometimes I wondered why I didn't get things that other kids had if my family was working in the Name of God, but we believed in His faithfulness. Leading up to when I received my shoebox, I asked God for a special gift at Christmastime, something just for me. I knew that my shoebox gift was God's answer to my prayer. To me, it was proof that God is faithful.

Growing up in church, I assumed I was a Christian. But my dad told me that a Christian is someone who makes a decision to follow Jesus Christ. My salvation occurred a couple of years after I received my shoebox, but the gift really started me thinking that since God is faithful to me, I needed to be faithful to Him.

My faith was tested when I was 18. Our parents had just dropped off me and my middle sister at college in the Dominican and were then involved in a traffic accident. Our older sister and both of our parents were killed in the crash. Losing so much so fast has caused me to not take anything for granted. There are times I still feel lonely without them and ask God why they had to leave, but I've never doubted the love of God. Though I don't always understand His plan, I've learned to trust in it.

"I knew that my shoebox gift was God's answer to my prayer."

That faith goes back to my shoebox. I needed that message of God's love that Brittany sent to me—little did I know how much I would need it, but He did.

I believe that God always will put the right box in the right hand.

God worked in the heart of a 13-year-old girl to send that message to me. I often wonder where Brittany, now in her 30s, is today and what she is doing. But God knows, and I know He is faithful.

Anabel now lives near her sister in Washington state, where her aunt and uncle started a Hispanic church. Last year, the church's youth were the first ones in the congregation to pack shoeboxes. They packed 150 gifts—all with notes about the love and faithfulness of God.

Scripture Memory Verses for October

- October 1st Ephesians 4:15
- October 8th 1 Peter 1:3
- October 15th Psalms 115:16
- October 22th John 15:22
- October 29th Deut. 1:21



Preschool Update

By Sarah Tran

We are all excited for the start of this new preschool year. We have made many wonderful changes. Our little Woolies (18 mos to 3 years) have moved into the downstairs classroom. Their toddler furniture has brightened up the space and they are loving all the extra play and learning room. Our Lambs and Sheep are sharing the Annex classroom and they are enjoying getting an opportunity to play and build and learn in an environment better suited to the learning and development of 4 & 5 year olds (lots more small parts and pieces and independent art activities).

Teacher Lauren has been blessing the Preschool with her teaching gifts for almost four years now. She is teaching the Lambs and Sheep this year. She is assisted by Teacher Annie who joined the Preschool at the end of July this year. They are a great team working together and we are so blessed to have her.

Teacher Kamala joined the Preschool at the beginning of April this year. She has a gift for working with our little ones. She has been joined part time by Teacher Theresa, the former Director of St. Gaul's Preschool program. Teacher Theresa brings a wealth of experience, education and many wonderful Preschool Resources with her. We are so blessed to have her as well. We have also added a brand new teacher for this class. Teacher Monique will start this October. She is a welcome addition, with her background in teaching at a Christian Preschool.

My husband Tom, continues to assist me in the office, and also helps in the classrooms and with Preschool maintenance as needed.

Please continue to pray for all of the Teachers, for the children, and families in our program as well as for the children and families who will come. Please also pray for Tom and I as we do all that we can to meet the daily changing needs of this Preschool Ministry.

Thank you, Sarah Tran

Here to Serve You:

Elders: Jeff Brumbach, Bob Daly, Mondo Gonzales, Leonard O'Malley

Deacons/Deaconesses: Susie Brumbach, Jacky Daly, Jerry Klosterboer, Bob Pavich, Kathy Pavich, Tootie O'Malley, Suzette Waite, Ted Beverage

Church Staff: Mondo Gonzales, Pastor; Ted Beverage, Music Director

Preschool Staff: Sarah Tran, Director/Teacher. Teachers: Lauren Marshall, Monique Doyle
Teacher Assistants: Kamala Clark, Annie Preciado, Theresa DeGraffenreid. Office Manager: Thomas Tran

IN GOD WE TRUST



**Tahoe
Community
Church**

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