



Shepherd Tuesday Happenings
for January 13, 2009

Dear Shepherdites and Friends,

Well, we are almost 2 weeks into the new year and honestly, how many of you are still writing 2008 when you write a date. God has been good to us already this year and blessed us with good services.

Just Thinking -- While visiting Mexico a few months back, we met for the first time, Pastors Laura and Alex. They have 2 children Adrile, an energetic 9-year-old boy, and Shelomit, a beautiful 5 year old girl.

At first the children were shy with these older strangers that did not speak their language well. Shelomit would hide behind her father and cling to his legs, occasionally peeking at us.

Finally, I got down on the floor at her level and told her, in Spanish, that, "It's OK; we're just an old grandma and grandpa". It was like a door had opened and a light came on; she would hug us and sit with us whenever she had a chance. On our most recent visit, we stood by a Christmas tree in the hotel lobby. There was a cut-out cartoon figure of Santa Claus with a cotton beard. The decoration was about her size and she turned to our friend Patricia, who is Mexican, and whispered, "If Grandpa had a beard, he would look just like that."



Maybe that's why we think of God as a father figure; it removes some of the fear and allows the love to flow. Now I read the papers and watch TV, and know that all fathers are not loving and kind; but I prefer to think of God as a father/grandfather who I love to be around and who I want to be as close to as I can. "God, slow to get angry and huge in loyal love, forgiving iniquity and rebellion and sin." (Numbers 14:18 The Message)

Board Meeting Tonight – The church board will have their monthly meeting at the church tonight at 7 pm. Just a reminder, to all board members, to be present tonight and to ask you to pray for us as we carry out the church's business.

This Week at Shepherd --

Wednesday @ 7 pm – Pray and Bible Study

Sunday @ 9 am – Discipleship Training

Sunday @ 10 am – Morning Worship

Sunday @ 4:30 pm – Praise Team Practice

Sunday @ 5:00 pm – Evening Worship

Young Adult Bowling – The Young Adult Group (under 40) are having a bowling outing at Anchor Lanes on Lake Murray Blvd. in Irmo, on Thursday at 6:30 pm.

The Family of Pastor Luis Valverde – Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of Pastor Luis Valverde who passed away earlier this week. Pastor Luis was a leader in the Hispanic ministries in South Carolina. The funeral will be in his native Costa Rica.

Marriage Seminar – Mrs. Diane Estep will be conducting a seminar, in February and March, for couples that are engaged or planning marriage, as well as couples married less than 2 years. If you are interested, you may contact Mrs. Estep at (803) 740-1412 or you may email her at dianepliyh@aol.com.

Alabaster – Alabaster Sunday will be in February. If you don't have a box, they are available in the church foyer.

Missionaries at Shepherd – Steve and Debbie Hofferbert, missionaries to Brazil, will be with us at Shepherd on Saturday, January 24. We will share a meal with them at 5 pm and then they will share their message about God's work in their area.

Shepherd Member Honored (Follow-up) – As reported in the last edition, Shepherd member, Chief Petty Officer Tem Frierson was honored as the top marketing coordinator in the U.S. Navy. Last week we accompanied him to Washington DC, as he and the other top performers in the Naval Recruiting Command were treated to meals, tours and meetings with high ranking Navy and civilian officials. Some of the stops included the Capitol, the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, as well as other Washington sightseeing. In addition to other awards, Tem was presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in the awards ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial. It was an awe inspiring week and we add our salute for a job well done.

Shepherd Tuesday On-line – Shepherd Tuesday Happenings is available on our website each week, including past issues. Just go to www.shepherdnazarene.com, click on the Tuesday Happenings link (on the left), then click on the date. The on-line edition often contains pictures and graphics which for technical reasons we cannot transmit with the e-mail version.

Finally -- A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him.

She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school In the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

The neighbor said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor boy he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally he said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is."

The friend said, "Well, who is she?"

"That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, "Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my Life, so I guess I'll just have to get used to it."

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always. See you in church; remember, come home to Shepherd where you ARE family.

John

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