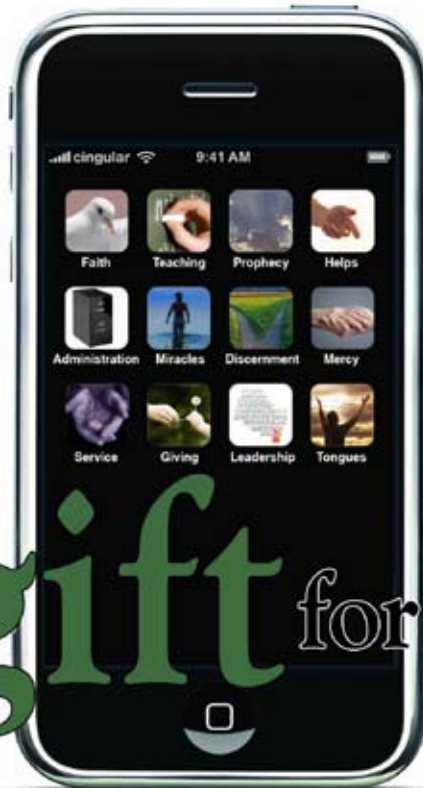


A FIRST PRES  
MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

# Chimes

January  
2010



There's a  
**gift** for that

Have you ever wondered what people are talking about when “spiritual gifts” are mentioned?

- Is this something only for Pentecostals?
- Do just “ordinary” believers (like us!) have them?
- What difference do they make in our lives?

These and many other issues are front and center this January, as we continue our yearlong “Community of the King” church wide emphasis. We’ll learn how discovering and using our gifts is the key that unlocks the door to experiencing a truly rewarding life in Jesus’ Kingdom. We’ll also discover that recognizing and using the gifts God has already given every believer is the #1 way for us to be both fulfilled and fruitful in our lives as Jesus’ disciples.

We’ll not only be teaching about spiritual gifts on Sundays, but offering opportunities for everyone in the church family to discover your gifts personally, including:

- Wednesday nights with Pastor Karl during the All-Stars children’s ministry (Beginning Wed, January 13)
- Sunday mornings during worship services (beginning Sunday, January 10)
- In many of our small groups meeting throughout the week

Whatever needs we have in our First Pres Church Family, “there’s a gift for that!” Come and discover it for yourself!

# Easy Ways to Give in 2010

Here are three options to streamline your giving in the New Year:

- **Automatic monthly deduction**—Make a deduction from your checking or savings account that is sent directly to the church each month.
- **Give Online**—Our First Pres website is now equipped to allow you to give online with any major credit card as often as you wish. Visit [www.firstpresvisalia.org](http://www.firstpresvisalia.org)...you'll see "Online Giving" on the home page.
- **Automatic monthly credit card deduction**—You tell the church bookkeeper how much to deduct from your credit card each month. If you give monthly, this is a great option to accrue points for all your giving in 2010!



Giving through any of these methods will be credited to your annual giving record, just as giving through cash or check. To begin automatic giving in 2010, call Bookkeeper Kristi at 732-8627 or email [kristi@firstpresvisalia.org](mailto:kristi@firstpresvisalia.org).

## HAPPY NEW YEAR from Children's Ark Learning Center

God has been at work this year at CALC! Prayers have

been answered by sending others to make this year an awesome year! He has even sent others to help out when we didn't even pray for them! We have been reminded that our God is an awesome God and grown professionally as well with His help and people like ...

- Parents: who choose to enroll their children with us.
- Staff who represent & stay with CALC.
- Jerry Beir: The "Fix-It" Man.
- Aaron Bothof: hanging bulletin boards.
- Oviat & Ritchie families, & The Sence Foundation: money donated for supplies to help the school.
- First 5: Grant money awarded to CALC.
- Garry Wonacott: New Cubbies built.
- Lowes (Riggin/Demaree): donated supplies.

- Mike Sandberg: Carpet install/cubby install.
- Church family: Microwave donation, Spaghetti Dinner donation, fundraising events.
- Ben Martinez/Steven Dais: donated labor to create the teacher lounge.
- Grandpa Allen Greenfield: piggy-bank donation for each CALC Graduate.
- Jennifer Ogletree: Graduation Day help.
- Anyone not mentioned but has donated, prayed, supported our center.
- Parents and church members who serve on our Preschool Board.
- Connie Fry who lovingly reads to the children.

With God, these people and your generosity CALC has had a successful year in 2009. Please continue to pray that 2010 will be a successful year and that God has His hand upon our staff, children and their families. Thanks again! God is at work!!

## Thank you!

The Stewardship Committee wants to say a big thank you to all who have participated in Stewardship 2010 so far. As of now, fully committed pledges total \$707,553 (206 families), with several more pledges committed to coming in before the end of the year. Praise the Lord and thanks to everyone for your effort.

To insure your 2009 gifts are recorded this year, all donations being dropped off at the church office must be received by December 30 as we will be closed on December 31.

If you are mailing your gift, only those gifts postmarked by December 31 will be received as a gift for the year. Any gift received or postmarked after December 31 will be considered a 2010 donation. Thank you!



## **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement**

by Rick Bagley

In January, First Presbyterian of Visalia is hosting a course called Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. This is the fourth time this course has been offered in Visalia, and it is part of a world-wide movement that God is generating to create what has been termed "World Christians." Not missionaries; not short-term evangelists; not clean water system installers; not youth workers; not mission pastors nor senior pastors, but World Christians who understand what the phrase, "Jesus, priceless treasure" means in practical terms. This course will show you what it means to live out that phrase.

Can you serve God by staying home? Yes, most passionately, yes! Can you serve God by helping foster the "World Christian" mind-set in those who worship with you, serve with you, celebrate with you? Yes, most enthusiastically, yes! Can you serve God by doing what you are doing now with more focus and understanding? Yes, emphatically, yes!

As John Wesley once said to a critic who was downplaying

his education, "God may not need my education, but he doesn't need our ignorance either." This course will educate you in four key areas - The Biblical, the Historical, the Cultural and the Strategic - to give you "perspective" on what God is doing, and has been doing, on a world-wide basis. This course will give you a vision for what God is doing in history. It's the same vision that motivated Jesus to live with joy, hope and single-hearted passion. This course will invite you to live with the same purpose and significance that He did.

The point of this course is not to persuade you to become a missionary; the point is to expose you to many of the realities and challenges of what it means to be set on a path of learning so that you can play your part wisely and well in this movement of God.

The course will cover 15 weekly meetings (with a break at Easter) on Sunday evenings in Geneva Hall from 6 to 9 PM. There will be lectures from missionaries, mission executives, seminary professors and others who have practical understanding of what it means to be a "World Christian." It will stimulate your thinking, and at the same time it will be devotional. You will be challenged and inspired by what you learn. We are not called to perform dull religious duties. You are invited to enlist as His follower in a life filled with meaning and significance.

If you are at all interested, please talk to me about this course. We want to make this opportunity as accessible as possible. It begins January 10th, and we invite anyone interested to come to the first meeting with no obligation: come hear the speaker, review the class format, review the textbook and workbook, meet the other participants. We want you to see what you can expect, and there is no obligation. If you want to take the course, you can choose one of two ways: for the certificate designation at \$245 and for 3 units of college credit at \$465.

Our primary goal is to provide what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. The main thing to know is that this course will give you a vision of the kingdom of God and your role in it.

Call me at 786-5183 if you have more questions or want a brochure that describes the 15 weeks of classes.