

binnerri CONNECTIONS

BINNERRI ENGLISH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2008 | VOL 1.3

The Greatest Gift of All...

Okay. I admit it. Hands down, Christmas is my favorite holiday. Why? Well, among other reasons, aside from my birthday, it's the only time I can anticipate presents.

I love receiving gifts; after all, who doesn't? And while other gifts are great, they can never top the greatest gift we have received: the coming of Jesus Christ. Just take a minute and think; God loved us so much that He sent His son to take away our sins. How can we ever say we are worth it?

With so much scrambling for last minute presents and all the brightly lit decorations, it's easy for us to forget what Christmas is really about. Even before there were gifts and trees and Santa Clause, a baby was born to come and save us all.

If God can give us His son as a gift, surely we in turn can give to others. On the back page of this issue, we have provided a list of various organizations that need your help in making Christmas merry for others in need.

There are so many people out there who need to experience the love we've received. Christmas is a time of giving and spreading holiday cheer. It all started when God sent His son and changed our future. Why not show your gratitude and share that love with others this season?

It can be as easy as donating cans to a food bank or as personal as volunteering to feed the homeless. We hope you will feel moved this holiday to celebrate Christ's coming by spreading His love.

- Mari Park



PASTOR'S CORNER

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

So, this is my second Christmas here in Dallas, but I don't remember it being this cold last year. What if it were this cold year round? What if it were always winter? In the book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis tells the wonderful story of four children from our world entering the magical world of Narnia. The problem is that Narnia is being held hostage by a horrible witch who has magically made it winter. As one of the characters says, "always winter but never Christmas." Under the snow, Narnia remains frightened and lifeless.

Well, we don't live in Narnia, but we do experience winter. We experience times in our lives where there seems to be no hope, no life, and even no purpose. There are times when the mundane drives our morality, emotions, and spirituality. But, during this Christmas time, we remember that winter is only a season and Jesus has come to be the light that gives us life and hope.

This season, would you remember that truth? And would you pass it on to someone who needs to know so desperately that Jesus is the answer. Because when there's Jesus, it will "sometimes be winter but it's always Christmas!"

Blessings,
PK

Submissions

Want to submit an article? We'd love to hear from you! E-mail us with your articles/ideas at connections@binnerriem.org. Submissions must be made by the third Sunday of each month.

EM Leadership 2009



From the very beginning we have sought after God's guidance and direction in prayerfully selecting the EM Leadership for 2009, and we firmly believe that His sovereign hand has been on each and every step of the process. We're confident that our six leaders for next year have been called and commissioned by God. And as we look forward to 2009, we want take this opportunity to thank our leadership for 2008, and for their commitment and service to God's people throughout this past year. We also want to thank all of you for your partnership in joining us through your prayers and vote throughout the process, and ask that you continue in praying for next year's leaders. Most of all, we give all the glory to God for His faithfulness throughout this whole process.

From left to right, top to bottom:

Grace Choi, Maurice "Mo" Choi, Phillip Kim, Casey Malarcher, Michael Suh, Jonathan S. Yu



Upcoming Events

12/20-12/23: Youth Winter Retreat at Lakeview Conference Center, Waxahachie

12/24: Joint Christmas Eve Service in the Main Sanctuary, 7:00 PM

12/28: Joint Worship Service in the Main Sanctuary, 11:00 AM

12/31: EM New Year's Eve Service, 11:15 PM

12/29-1/3: Special All Church Prayer Meeting in the Main Sanctuary, 5:30 AM

1/10: Men's Prayer Meeting in Room 240, 6:30 AM

1/17: Women's Prayer Meeting in Room 240, 6:30 AM

Volunteer Appreciation Night

We are so thankful for the many volunteers who give up their time and talents in serving God and His people throughout our church. We not only wanted to say "thank you," but we wanted to express our gratitude for all they do by having a night dedicated specifically for them. Here are some pictures from our Volunteer Appreciation Night.



Special thanks to Brian Gum, Cindy Ko, Jo Ko, Eunice Lee, Danny Park, Pastor Kye and Pastor Andrew for planning the event.

Want to learn more about Binnerri English Ministry?

Check us out on the Web at www.binnerriem.org. For general contact, please e-mail info@binnerriem.org.

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Giving Back

While most of us are blessed with being able to celebrate Christmas with loved ones, there are so many others in our community that are unable to have a happy holiday. Why don't you take a moment to consider the needy and do your part in giving back to those in need? Here are some organizations that could use your help this Christmas.

Christmas Angel Project The core concept of the Christmas Angel Project is to provide homeless men and women a warm, safe, and magical Christmas at one of Dallas's finest hotels. Since 2005, the SoupMobile has rented out the Skyline Tower at the Dallas Hyatt Regency and has provided the homeless a place to stay each Christmas.

How to help: volunteer for the event on Christmas Eve, monetary donation.

<http://soupmobi.ipower.com//Christmas/html/index.html>

North Texas Food Bank The North Texas Food Bank was established in 1982 to address the critical issue of hunger in the North Texas area by securing donations of surplus unmarketable, but wholesome, foods and grocery products for distribution.

How to help: volunteer at one of their events, donating food or money

<http://www.ntxfoodbank.org/>

The Family Place The Family Place is the largest family violence service provider in the Dallas area reaching out to thousands of victims of family violence each year with award-winning programs that keep women and children safe.

How to help: sign up to volunteer (must undergo orientation), monetary donations

<http://www.familyplace.org/Page.aspx?pid=191>

Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas The sole purpose of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of North Texas is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions, in order to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas has granted more than 3,000 wishes since its inception in 1982.

How to help: volunteer to work with the children, help grant wishes through monetary donations

<http://www.northtexaswish.org/index.html>

World Computer Exchange World Computer Exchange is a global education and environment nonprofit that helps connect youth in 65 developing countries to the skills, opportunities and understanding of the Internet while keeping working computers out of landfills.

How to help: don't toss your old computers; donate them

<http://www.worldcomputerexchange.org/>