



THE THRILL OF HOPE

My all time favorite Christmas carol is "O Holy Night." It's a beautiful song, both melodically and lyrically, that tells the story of the birth of our dear Savior, Jesus Christ the Immanuel. This beloved carol has been a staple of the holiday season for many years, and we hear it on the radios and in the malls around this time every year. However, few of us know of its origins. This song actually comes from an old French poem entitled, "Minuit, Chrestiens" (*Midnight, Christians*) written by Placide Cappeau, a wine merchant and poet, who had was asked by a parish priest to write a Christmas poem. It was later adapted by John Sullivan Dwight into a singing version, and in both versions we find this phrase, "the *thrill* of hope."

For some of us, this is the time of the year we look forward to the least. The roads get more congested, malls and shopping centers are packed with last-minute shoppers, and the post office lines are overcrowded. But remember growing up and looking forward to Christmas morning, and the anticipation of opening our gifts?

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Want to learn more about Binnerri English Ministry?
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UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN - 12.19.10	FRI - 12.24.10	SUN - 12.26.10	TUE-FRI - 12.28-31	FRI - 12.31.10
Christmas Sunday, 9:45 & 11:30 AM	Children's Christmas Musical, 7:30 PM	Joint EM & KM Worship Service, 11:00 AM	Youth Group Winter Retreat	New Year's Eve Worship Service, 11:15 PM

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We eagerly counted down the days where we would finally be able to recklessly rip open the carefully wrapped and packaged boxes of toys that sat underneath the Christmas tree, just begging to be opened. It was indeed the most wonderful time of the year, when we were younger, because there was this eager expectation, this *thrill* of hope and anticipation. But things just aren't quite the same as we get older, and that *thrill* that we once had as a child, gets overwhelmed by the realities of life.

Yet, beneath the surface of all the busyness and bustlings of the holiday season, we have a reason to be in eager expectation. We have a reason to be in hopeful anticipation, because Christmas is about celebrating the greatest gift ever, Jesus Christ. It's an opportunity for us to be reminded of God's amazing love for us as we reopen the gift of His grace and love. And this expectation and anticipation of celebrating the wondrous gift of a Savior should rekindle that childlike thrill of hope in us, because God came to be with us, to save us, and to live within us.

My hope and prayer for you and me is that we would rediscover our need of a Savior, and that this discovery would rekindle that thrill of hope and anticipation in us this holiday season. And on behalf of our ministry, may you and your family have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

- Pastor Andrew

ATTENDANCE & FINANCIAL REPORT

[Details have been removed for our online version.]

Want to submit an article? We'd love to hear from you! E-mail us with your articles and ideas at connections@binnerriem.org. Submissions must be made by the third Sunday of each month. Want to serve in a different way? Join the *Connections* team! We are looking for: photographers, writers and other creative-minded individuals. E-mail us at connections@binnerriem.org for more information.



We recently had the incredible opportunity to join together with our Youth Group to be the hands and feet of Jesus in serving our community. We partnered with some amazing non-profit organizations for the purpose of doing justice in our city. Some of the organizations wanted to express their gratitude and we thought it would be great to share some of these with you.



Advocates for Community Transformation

Demolishing this structure was one step towards strategically bringing systematic transformation and restoration to the property and decreasing crime and urban blight. We are excited that you were able to take place in the work of inner-city justice and God's redemptive plan for West Dallas. Reducing crime and blight paves the way for so many more opportunities for the Lord's people to minister to residents who otherwise feel imprisoned in their homes. You have helped in bringing freedom to this community and it is this freedom that we hope to use as a foundation to discuss with the residents and clients we represent the freedom we all have in Christ Jesus.

David's Place Head Start Center and Margaret Cone Head Start Center

Thank you so much for your amazing work at the David's Place Head Start Center and Margaret Cone Head Start Center. 24 volunteers of DoJustice helped us raise \$1,270.08 towards our nonfederal community goal, that's an incredible donation and we thank you! As you could probably tell, our teachers and staff really benefited from your tireless efforts. The extra hands and willing hearts were much appreciated.



Services of Hope

The Annual Sandy May Thanksgiving Baskets of Blessing was a great success. It was your heart warming and inspiring service, that made this possible. Your Volunteerism allowed us to provide a meal for 500 plus families. Words cannot convey our gratitude for your extraordinary commitment of time and work. The Services of Hope Staff want to express our thanks. The credit for our good deeds, firmly rests, with our dedicated volunteers. Your hard work bears witness to your passion and dedication for our mission. We in no way could have asked for more dedicated volunteers and we continue to be thankful we have each of you. It is and continues to be a pleasure and a privilege to work with each you.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Diana Lee Kim: Our family always woke up super early. I think my parents were more excited about my sister and me opening the presents than we were. Then we would go to Christmas morning service at church. Then we cleaned all day.

Cindy Ko: We celebrated Christmas with our extended family so we didn't open gifts until the evening. We would eat a meal that the moms worked on all day. When it was time to open gifts everyone would gather and they would pass out gifts from the oldest to the youngest. We all had to show how much we wanted the gift by showing our talents. Either by a song or playing a musical instrument.

David Hyungsuk Lee: During the Christmas week, we would always attend Willowcreek Church's Christmas service and join in their tradition of singing "Silent Night." It's always an emotional time when we embrace one another, share about our joy and sorrow and just be thankful for having one another.

Darin Suh: My family does a competitive Secret Santa with a \$30 maximum. Whoever gives the best gift gets an additional gift and the title for that year. Before we give the gift, we have to give a speech about why we chose it and what we want it to mean to the recipient. Since it gets really competitive, I usually re-gift something I have lying in my room. I have never won the title.

PATHWAY & COUPLES FELLOWSHIP

