

Views from the Top

The Cloudhaven Chronicle

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Ministry update

Well 2013 is now history, but we still have to update you a bit. We had another wonderful Christmas at Cloudhaven with 80+ in attendance, and were blessed by the preaching of Board member and long-time friend of Cloudhaven Rev. Rick Steele.



'Becca & Wes

On Dec. 21st, Jim had the pleasure of marrying Wesley Pipkin and Rebecca Padilla at University Presbyterian in Las Cruces. The Pipkins are now living in El Paso, TX. Last November, 'Becca's brother Josh and Marissa Sotelo were married in Texas!



Lizzie, Pastor Tito & Kim

Then in January the remaining Padilla family joined us for a fun time at Cloudhaven. Exciting days for our dear friends from Las Tierras PCA in El Paso!



Joanna, Deedee, Phillip, Colleen & Orianna

Also in January, Joanna McMillan, Deedee Whetstine and Colleen Moon from Alamogordo came for a mini-retreat. Leaving the rest of their kids with hubbies, Deedee brought Phillip and Colleen brought Orianna for their first Cloudhaven experience. This month, Jim began a 12-week Sunday School series on "Why 'Presbyterian' is our Middle Name" for adults at Westminster PCA in Alamogordo.



Jason & Nellie

Pastor Shelby Moon traveled to California to marry our own Jason Tate and Nellie Jimenez from Long Beach. Then we were pleased to host a well-attended reception for them at Cloudhaven. Jason and Nellie are now residing here in Alamogordo.

In February, Steve and Brenda Holley came up for lunch, and Pastor Shelby Moon for a retreat that unexpectedly got cut a bit short. He's got a free night with us coming when time allows.

We were blessed by the return of Jill Young (now Frisch) with her husband Adam. They hail from Oregon and included us in their honeymoon meanderings around the country.



Adam & Jill

Also in February we hosted a great group from Christ the King PCA in El Paso. The retreat was the first for CTK members at Cloudhaven and was ably organized by Raul Issa and Sarah Spraitzar. Jim contributed some applied theology concerning God's general and special revelation.

March brought another round of community Lenten Lunches sponsored by the Sacramento Mountain Ministerial Alliance and hosted by Cloudcroft Methodist Church. This year, the devotional theme is N.T. passages other than in the gospels that explicitly reference the cross of Christ. Jim kicked off the series with a message on Philippians 2:5-11.

(over)



The gang from Christ the King PCA, El Paso

Rev. Ron Kruiz, his sons Zach and Branden, and Zach's wife Kelly came all the way from Colorado to spend their annual family retreat with us. Among other duties, Ron teaches Greek at Sangre de Christo Seminary. Despite not having a television feed, we managed to stream a couple of NCAA tournament games to our big screen for the Kruizes and Katy to enjoy. Jim grumbled a bit about commercials, but was outnumbered... We hope Ron's wife Beth and their daughter Autumn can join us next time.



Ron, Branden, Zach & Kelly

Tell ya what...

Jim and Katy took time in March for a trip to Florida. We attended the 27th Ligonier Ministries National Conference among some 4000 other folks. The excellent messages this year were delivered by Voddie Baucham, Sinclair Ferguson, Robert Godfrey, Steven Lawson, Albert Mohler, Stephen Nichols, R.C. Sproul (senior and junior) and Derek Thomas.

We also were blessed to spend some time with friends from Seminary days: Betty Jane Nash, classmate Marcia Yount and neighbors Renate & Gary Weber and Peggy Ward. Peggy now is known as *The Bead Chick* at her store of that name in St. Augustine where she also teaches jewelry making.



Katy & Renate

We spent a night with Jim's friend of over 50 years Bruce Wiley who now resides in Flagler Beach, FL. We sure looked different in the slides Bruce showed us of our Air Force days in San Antonio, TX. It was nice also to see our mutual friend Walt McQuillan,

who lives with his wife Doris just to the north in Palm Coast, FL.



Katy, Bruce & Jim

Resurrection Day thoughts

Easter is fast upon us again this year. Although the years seem to go by faster, the realities of what was accomplished by our Lord some two millennia ago are still fresh each day. In 1st Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul emphatically reminds us that if Christ is not bodily risen from the dead we have no hope, are still bearing the guilt of our many sins, possess a worthless faith and are most to be pitied.

But Philippians 2:5-11 assures us that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one, the God-man who accomplished everything for our redemption by living the perfectly righteous life none of us can live, and by dying the death under God's holy wrath that we all deserve. The proof of that reality is the resurrection and exaltation that he received, and the name given him by the God the Father. The name was the Father's to give—his own name, so that only he could give it. The name he gave to Jesus is *Lord*. [Vs. 11].

This also is proof (as is this whole passage) that Jesus is not only fully human (so that he could live our life and die our death,) but also fully divine, fully God. How so? Because through Isaiah the prophet God said, "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols." [Is. 42:8]

Our prayer is that you will worship him anew now, this Easter and in the days to come, "...and that by believing you may have life in his name." [John 20:31]

Soli Deo Gloria!

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"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."—Is. 44:22