



December

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“Advent”

A Letter by Pastor Emily

The season of Advent is here! I recently read on my Lectio 365 app that “one of the earliest recorded prayers of the Church is the Aramaic word *Maranatha*, which literally means, ‘Come, Lord Jesus’ (Revelation 22:20). The Latin word *adventus* means the same thing: ‘come.’ Advent is a season of waiting and wanting, looking and longing, inviting Christ to come once more into [our lives] and into the world.”

My mind has already begun focusing on scheduling needs and tasks to complete this season. That can be a practical part of celebrating the birth of Jesus with loved ones and our church family. At the same time, I can feel within myself how easy it could be to allow the practical organizational aspects of the season to take away from remembering the heart of the season—the birth of Jesus Christ.

How might our experience of the season and our focus this season shift if we remembered to pray daily, “Come, Lord Jesus,” while looking for ways we might partner with God to spread the light of Christ? How might it change the way we feel about searching for gifts, preparing food for gatherings, donating time and finances or sending Christmas cards? How might it shift our perspective of what we think we need this season? (Cont. Pg. 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Sunday School

Sundays in the Griffith House
During Worship

Connect Online

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at
First Congregational Church of
Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational
Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, December 9th

12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

At this lunch, JOG will be
honoring Jack Gutman!

\$12, First Time Visitors: Free

Women's Lunch

Wednesday, December 11th

Bev Aye's Home

RSVP to the church office for
address and directions.

Operation Bless Toy Giveaway

Saturday, December 21st

10am-1pm

Toys will be collected until
Dec. 20th.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24th, 7pm

FCCA Updates & Events

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we enjoyed a moving time of worship and a tasty feast alongside four other churches that worship on the property as well: Unlimited Church, United New Life Church, El Buen Samaritano and Oasis Christian Church. It was incredible to be led in worship by each church's worship team, and we are grateful for a meaningful message from Pastor Fred Garciano of United New Life Church.



WOMEN'S LUNCH

Wednesday, December 11th from 11:30am-1:00pm

Bev Aye's Home (RSVP to receive address at fccaoffice@gmail.com or 714-776-0960)

Join the women of the church for a Christmas luncheon! The menu will include appetizers, chicken adobo, rice, salad, rolls and dessert. Bring your appetite and be ready for a wonderful time of fellowship. It is always good to gather for food, devotional time and group activities.

OPERATION BLESS TOY GIVEAWAY

Saturday, December 21st from 10am-1pm

Unlimited Church is organizing a campus wide toy drive and toy giveaway. A bin will be in the church office through December 20th if you would like to donate any toys. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering at the giveaway event. Office Contact Information: (714) 776-0960 or fccaoffice@gmail.com.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Wednesday, December 18th at 7pm

If you would like to go caroling with a group from the church, join us for a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 11th at 7pm in the church office and then meet us at the church at 7pm on Wednesday, December 18th for caroling! We will carpool to members' homes in the neighborhood and are researching local nursing home options as well.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm in the Sanctuary

JOG Luncheon

This Is Your Life, Jack Gutman



Ever since the founding of JOG in 2009, Jack has blessed us with his humor. This month Jack will turn 99 and it is our pleasure to honor this special man. At the age of 17 as a Navy medic, Jack found himself on the beaches of Normandy. 75 years later he was flown back to Normandy to be honored by both the Presidents of France and the United States. Jack's goal in life is simple. He wants to touch hearts with the love of Christ Jesus. Jack was raised in a poverty-stricken Jewish family in New York city. Over the course of his career Jack had many adventures. Just to highlight a few of his ventures, Jack was a comedian under the name of Jackie Wilson, ran an insurance agency

and a large wallpapering company. Jack has written his life's story entitled, **"One Veteran's Journey to Heal the Wounds of War."** We look forward to honoring Jack this month!

When: Monday, December 9th

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Where: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

515 North State College Blvd Anaheim, Ca 92806

Cost: \$12

Enjoy the music of singer and guitar player Bob Goodrich, as well as the humor from Normandy Veteran, Jack Gutman, and football coach, Tom Meiss. We will have an excellent meal planned with tables always filled with good fellowship.

Please RSVP via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com or call Chuck at 714-350-8983

JOG



Of Orange County
Just Ordinary Guys

Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

A Word From The President

Dear **MMP family**,

Wednesdays are special days for MMP staff, dedicated to devotions and meetings. Mondays, however, are reserved for a unique practice: our chain prayer. During these moments, we lift MMP, our ministries, partners, and friends—our "MMP Family." If you're reading this, please know you've been remembered on a Monday!

On October 16, 2024, our dedicated staff member, Aida, led us in a devotional on Matthew 2, titled "Lessons from the Main Characters." At first, I wondered if it was too



early to reflect on a Christmas passage. But as I listened, God spoke deeply to me through the message, especially in the meaning behind the Magi's gifts to Jesus:

- **Gold:** What can I offer to show that Christ is truly Lord of my life?
- **Frankincense:** Who might God be calling me to intercede for?
- **Myrrh:** What part of me needs to die so Christ can live more fully in me?

As we approach the season of giving, let's ask the true Celebrant, Jesus Christ, what He desires from us this Christmas. Is it Gold, Frankincense, or Myrrh? May you have a blessed Christmas season!

Sincerely in Christ,

**Dr. Corrie, Chona,
Aida, Erlyn, Joshua
& Ronald**

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**Yes! I would like to give a special offering
for your Christmas Events.**

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☐ **\$** _____

**Please deposit your special offering using any of the platforms listed below.
Kindly send us a copy of your deposit slip for acknowledgment. Thank you!**

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Email Address: mmpece@gmail.com

Payment Options

Gcash: Zenaida Aquino, 09202228158

UNION BANK Account of **MISSION MINISTRIES
PHILIPPINES, INC.**

Account No. **0004-0002-4123**

Swift Code: **UBPHPHMM**

Bank Address: G/F Cabrera Building 2, 64 Timog Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City, 1103 Metro Manila
Telephone +632 84136304

Philippines Savings Bank Account of **MISSION
MINISTRIES PHILIPPINES, INC.**

Account No. **090-332-00007-1**

Swift Code: **PHSBPHMM**

Bank Address: G/F Castro Building, 58 Timog Avenue,
Quezon City, 1103 Metro Manila
Telephone No. +632 8374-3691

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**Tax deductible donations (USA):
Mission Ministries USA,**

PO BOX 11210 COSTA Mesa CA 92627, USA | Ph:
909.305.3739

Email: missionmin@aol.com

Make checks payable to: Mission Ministries
Please designate MMP in the memo line.

Classroom Gazette

A Publication of Mission Ministries Philippines

Christmas Edition

November 2024

Timeless Significance of The Magi's Gifts

As Christmas approaches, it's the time of the year, the old familiar story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The journey of Mary and Joseph, the humble and miraculous birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the greatest gift the world has ever known, the angelic announcement of His birth to the shepherds, the journey of the Wise Men—who traveled from afar to worship the newborn King and offer their gifts—remains a powerful reminder of the profound meaning behind Christmas. All of these are familiar and yet resounding even after two thousand years.

The Magi brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. While these offerings may seem unusual to us today, each one held deep spiritual significance, both for the life of Jesus and for us as believers.

Gold, the first gift, is universally associated with wealth and royalty, of kingship and authority. By presenting gold, the Magi were acknowledging Jesus as the King of Kings, the long-awaited Messiah who would lead and guide His people. The gift of gold reminds us during this season that Christ's kingship is one of service and salvation, and that true leadership comes from a heart willing to serve others.

Frankincense, the second gift, symbolizes divinity and worship. In the quiet moments of this Christmas season, frankincense encourages us to reflect on the divine presence in our lives and the miracle of God becoming human to walk beside us. Let us take time to worship Him, to lift up our hearts in gratitude and reverence for the wonder of God's love made flesh.

Myrrh, the final gift, foreshadows the sacrifice that Jesus would one day make. Myrrh symbolizes suffering



and death, but it also speaks to the hope of resurrection and eternal life. During this season of joy and celebration, myrrh calls us to remember the deeper purpose of Christ's coming—to offer His life as a ransom for many and to bring salvation to all who believe.

As we celebrate Christmas, the gifts of the Magi serve as a reminder that the birth of Jesus is not just a story of a child born in a manger, but a powerful event filled with divine meaning. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh invite us to reflect on who Jesus is—our King, our God, and our Savior. These gifts also encourage us to give our best to others, whether in material offerings or acts of kindness and love, following the example of the Wise Men who brought their treasures to the feet of the newborn King.

Mission Ministries Philippines has long worked to instill in its preschoolers the true meaning of Christmas: that Jesus is the reason for this and every season. We worship Him by using the talents and skills He has given us. This year, MMP will once again hold its annual Show of Talents and Kids Bazaar on November 29, 2024, at JFD Stadium, San Mateo, Rizal. Children from our partner schools will present their talents as gifts to Jesus. Just as the Magi brought offerings, MMP will share gifts, refreshments, and magical entertainment—all while spreading the gospel.

As Christmas is a time of fellowship as one body believing in Christ, MMP will hold Partners Christmas Party on December 7, 2024 at Marikina Heights, Marikina City. Spreading love, joy and care for our fellow workers for Christ.





December Birthdays

1-Dec Joshua Williams
4-Dec Maria Doyle
14-Dec David Hoke
17-Dec Ryan Rolnicki
19-Dec Natalie Garis
20-Dec Maria Caicedo
21-Dec Bruce Edwards
21-Dec Cooper Hoke
23-Dec Vito Di Camillo
23-Dec Evelyn Hoke
25-Dec Jesus Christ*
27-Dec Craig Rowe
27-Dec Cindy Ramsey
28-Dec Stephana Williams

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at
714-776-0960 or
fccoffice@gmail.com.

(Pastor's Article Continued) Our Thanksgiving worship together with United New Life Church, Unlimited Church, Oasis Christian Church and El Buen Samaritano beautifully set the stage for us to enter Advent from a place of trust and gratitude. Trinity Aumua's praise dance had me in tears it was such a moving expression of gratitude. It is posted on our social media accounts if you missed it. A song led by Oasis Christian Church included the words, "So I'll give thanks to God when I don't have enough, cause He's more than enough and He knows what I need." As they repeated the lyrics, "So why do I worry...God knows what I need," I was touched by the reality that gratitude does not only flow from a place of comfort but also from a place of trusting we are companioned by God who loves us and is at work for our good through it all.

During Advent, we remember to watch and wait, trusting that we will see signs of God's birth among us now. I see God in the generous gifts sent with Mike Villa-Real to Mission Ministries Philippines this month. I see God in the Christmas Food Baskets you provided for families at the Panamerican Institute in Tijuana. I see God in conversations as we enjoy each other and look out for each other, holding each other in prayer. This season, may we remember through it all to look and listen for Jesus as we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." He arrived in a manger—I suspect we may continuously be surprised by the ways and the places He appears.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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