



DECEMBER 2008

fbcmoesto.com



From Pastor Wade

I have been thinking about the Christmas season and everything we'll be doing in worship services to help celebrate our Savior's birth. It will be an exciting December!

In my Christmas thoughts I have also been noticing parallels between Jesus' birth and His second coming:

The Jewish people knew their Messiah was coming;

Christians know Jesus is coming again.

Their understanding of the Scriptures in relation to the Messiah's coming was partial;

Christians' understanding of the Scriptures in relation to Jesus' coming is partial - by God's intent.

The prophets warned and

encouraged the Jewish people to be ready for Messiah's coming;

Pastors and Bible teachers warn and encourage Christians to be ready for Jesus' return!

Most of the Jewish people weren't prepared for their Messiah's coming;

Are most Christians ready for Jesus' second coming?

As you celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Messiah and Savior, take the time to evaluate your day-to-day life with Him. Are you ready to see Him face-to-face? I pray you are!

And I pray your anticipation of His second coming is at least as intense as your celebration of His birth!

Wade

by Lin Sexton

A measured joy swept Slovenia in 1991 as this northern portion of

Yugoslavia became an independent nation.

In more recent years, Slovenia joined the EU, an event bringing great anticipation of all things new and bright, of a future different than the past and of a new kind of life.

Yet today, Slovenes search for the hope that never arrived. Disappointed with the emptiness of their strong economy, some are bitter because life has not been the rosy reality they expected.

Since 2001, missionaries Todd and Sarah Hunnicutt envisioned worshipers from our church somehow bringing the Gospel to this very secular, depressed society in the form of a worship concert in the Slovene language. What began with 12 First B singers in 2001 developed into a well-known performing group whose

actual mission was to evangelize through worship concerts, help church planters and model biblical community.

The 2008 New Hope team included performers from five American churches who prepared a concert celebrating Christ's love and freedom, and also presented the story of Slovenia's national hero, Protestant Reformer Primož Trubar, whose 500th birthday was being celebrated. Trubar is recognized as the father of the Slovene nation, language and education. However, Slovenes don't realize that it was because Trubar wanted all Slovenes to have true faith in Jesus that he sacrificed everything in order to publish books in their language. The first sentence of his first book reads, "To all Slovenes, grace, peace and mercy, and the true knowledge of God through Jesus Christ."

What better way to promote Christian unity than to invite 15 Slovenes representing five churches to live, worship, perform and travel with us? As I went to Slovenia twice this year to work with the Slovene cast and write the script for the production, I was impressed with the character and quality of the Slovene believers who would soon



Slovene team members

Continued on page 4

Influencing Children In Our Public Schools

“Pray for my mom to walk again,” “Please pray for my grandma,” “Pray for my cat that died” ... these and more are the prayer requests we are hearing from unchurched kids in Modesto public schools. How is this possible?

The miracle of miracles is that we are now allowed by law to bring the Good News into the California Schools’ After-School Program. How long this will last is uncertain.

by Debbie Mar

Under the umbrella organization of Child Evangelism Fellowship, volunteers with a heart for children are trained and equipped with teaching materials to take the Good News to children everywhere. What a joy it is to be an influence in these young impressionable lives.

First B starts a new club in the Modesto City School District beginning January 2009, with hopes to start a second club. This includes supplying teaching materials, treats for the clubs and prayer support. Volunteers, both helpers and teachers, will be blessed to influence young lives for Christ. The next semester begins in January and ends in June. Clubs meet one school day a week from 2:45-4:15. Training is provided at no charge.

He Gently Leads Those Who Have Young

I sighed as I taped another flyer on our neighborhood mailbox. I thought “God, are you sure I can do this?” Then I remembered the Scripture from Zechariah 4:6, “You will not succeed by your own strength or power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord.

determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men and women would seek Him ... and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” (Acts 17:26b, 27)

by Jenni Brummet

I was confident God had hand picked those who would be a part of this group. I was nervous but excited to be part of the Lord’s pursuit of these women. The group didn’t begin as a Bible study, but as a way to connect moms who live down the street from each other. We now have a regular play date, moms’-only coffee night and a dessert family potluck. We consistently run about 10 ladies, and we really enjoy each other’s company. As I get to know their stories, I hope my walk with the



Jenni and Ella Brummet

God has shown me that He is at work

around me, and so I stepped way out of my comfort zone and started a moms’ group in my neighborhood. He has placed me, a mother of a young child, in a neighborhood full of moms at the same stage in life, and this was not a mistake. Our God is a providential God, “and He

Continued on page 7

become closer than brothers and sisters to us.

At midnight on October 15, as we loaded luggage, cases of costumes, props, instruments, we thanked God for the support of our First B prayer team and for all those who helped us with funds. Since we weren't sure we had enough money for three meals a day, many people provided boxes of healthy snacks – we carried four suitcases of food which would prove to be a huge blessing during concert set up and travel.

As we left the US, team scribe Deb Smallwood journaled, “2008 is the year we get to see why New Hope exists.” She was so right! I could recount dozens of stories about how each concert brought the

presence of the Lord to dark places, and how our relationships with the Slovene believers changed their lives and ours. There isn't

room here to describe the stunning ways God worked each day, each hour and each moment. But as a testament to His favor and His goodness, we ended up with the right amount of money, we never went hungry and were happy to leave a suitcase full of munchies for the Trdna Skala (Solid Rock) youth center at the Kranj Church where Todd and Sarah help lead worship.

Spiritual warfare in Slovenia is

constant, heavy and can cause the soul to wither. Worship and the pursuit of biblical reconciliation is clearly the antidote, yet some Slovenes don't hear much about the subject. Those who do know the Lord's plan for victory crave the unity that brings glory to God and destroys the plans of the enemy. As we lived Scripture together, prayed, worked, learned, ate, laughed and lived on a bus for two weeks, God wrote His truth on each of our hearts and drew us together with an unbreakable bond.

When Seba and Glorija Forjan moved to Radovljica to start a youth ministry, Glorija heard a voice in her apartment saying, “Get out of here. You don't belong here. This is

our territory.” Through prayer they claimed Jesus' victory, and that never happened again, but it demonstrates the ongoing battle for souls.

Todd recalls, “There was a lot of spiritual warfare during the tour - it seemed like every hour I would

get a phone call or hear what was happening between some people or some churches or something else. During the first few concerts as we sang the very lively song, *He Is Worthy*, I sing a solo that says, 'O, Lord, You alone can take away the darkness from around me. O, Lord, You alone shed a light around me so that I could see ... that's why I will always let the world know - Jesus You are worthy!' As I gave all these



Seba and Glorija Forjan of Radovljica

Talk Around The Rock

The First B Drama Team was privileged to present two dramas and two songs as part of the Veteran's Day HONOR THE HEROES at the Gallo Arts Center. Sergeant Steve Trapp produced the two-hour program that included US military bands, ROTC presentations, speeches by dignitaries and the SONdance worship dance troupe along with our actors and singers. Drama Team member Roy Dooley directed and stage-managed the 256-cast member production, assisted by Donella Weiss.

General John Craddock, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, was the day's special guest, and ended the day by praising Modesto for hosting such an honoring event for veterans.

Veterans Celebration at First B

As the Bible tells us to give honor to whom honor is due, our church family has long celebrated Veteran's Day Sunday, and actively prayed for those currently serving as well.

This Veteran's Day signaled a focused ministry to veterans which has begun this year. Weekend services were planned as special outreaches to vets and their families, and by all accounts that outreach touched over 100 veterans. A special veterans' choir presented two songs, and a unique certificate of thanks was presented to each veteran present in the service. A special video and the traditional color guard added to the solemn but celebratory tone of the day and Pastor

Wade's message included comments from Vietnam vet Tom LaBarbera.

Ray Newman, who served in the Army for 22 years and helped organize the event, said of the choir, "There were WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan vets singing with others who served during the Cold War, and from all of the services. There is an unspoken bond between those who have served their country; and as they joined together, this was a blessing to the congregation but possibly even more of a blessing to those who sang. The ovation after the singing was unexpected, extremely uplifting, emotional and appreciated."



burdens to the Lord, in that moment I felt the darkness, the heaviness lifting. The Lord used that to minister to me.”

Several times on the 11-city tour, the Holy Spirit moved us toward unscheduled prayer and worship. Soon everyone would be stopped in their tracks, basking in the presence of God, some singing, some praying, some silent. One such post-concert time occurred

when a serious meeting of some church leaders went on nearby. At that moment, God impressed Greg Davis with a vision of a huge shaft of light coming down from Heaven on the

spot where we were – God’s pleasure and glory shining on His people. Days later as we drove into spiritually dark Kocevje, under a swollen black sky, over the hills shown that vertical clear shaft of light. We were astounded. That night, 8-year-old Nusa Lipovec presented me with a drawing she made of a similar shaft of light coming down from Heaven. She said it was God shining on us. Nusa had no idea about Greg’s vision nor had she seen the light that afternoon.

Mike Klemin recalls, “In Kocevje, we stayed at the home of Matejka. Her mom, Nada, mentioned that they just found out they didn’t have a church building any longer. The landlord had announced they could not come back. She was confident God would provide another place and that this was

a spiritual attack. She said, ‘God did not save me, my mother, my daughter and bring pastor Tony here to have us destroyed.’ What faith!”

We’ll never forget the concert in Kocevje, where in the surrounding forest nearly 30,000 people are buried in mass graves, having been slaughtered by the Communists after World War II. This is the theatre

where bullet holes are visible over the stage, and where the spiritual climate is so dark, often cast members get headaches and some even weep. Our prayer team at home had been alerted that the church there was under heavy persecution, and we needed extra

cover. Yet, that night everyone was full of peace and joy. In the audience were folks who had been commanded not to come, yet they came. We felt an angelic presence around the room. The Gospel was clearly received and the audience was radiant. God was there in power.

Cheryl Runyan recalls, “At the Kamnik concert, a very excited young woman approached me and said she had led her mother to Christ, but her mom was a nominal Christian. At our concert, her mom kept saying, “There was FIRE in there!” I explained that the *fire* she experienced was the Presence of God.”

Our final concert was at the prestigious Ljubljana Philharmonic in the heart of the capital city. It was a standing-room-only crowd, with 25 added chairs, and 160 people were



Shaft of Light in Kocevje

New Hope In Slovenia Continued

turned away. One woman said, "I've been a Christian 50 years and I can tell you that tonight was the largest gathering of people to hear the Gospel in Slovenia in 50 years."

On our last night we spoke blessings over our Slovene team members. We were deeply moved as one young man told Chris Costin he wished he had a father like Chris. Chris said, "You are the son I never had," and the two men embraced. Life-giving words were spoken to each person, with Scripture chosen just for them. Glorija Forjan said, "Nothing like this has ever happened here before. We don't hear encouragement. We don't hear words of life."



Chris Costin and "son" Miso Pavlovic

Andrej Lipovec, a dear brother, said, "You have shown us how to live together. We see how you are with each other with trust and love. And we said to each other, if the Americans can live in peace and unity, we can do it, too! You have inspired us to keep on working for the Lord." He described

how thrilled they were to have helped local churches alongside us, and how much evangelism had taken place through the ministry of those two weeks. We wept to realize that without knowing it, Andrej had described the three goals God had given New Hope. Andrej had never read them or heard them - he was simply voicing the sweet reality that God had empowered us to reach His goals for this time in Slovenia.

He Gently Leads Those Who Have Young Continued

Lord has an eternal impact. I'm in awe of the love the Lord has for these women and their families. He wants these women to know how He loves them, and that He desires more than anything to be in relationship with them. "How thankful I am to Christ Jesus our Lord for choosing me as one of His messengers, and giving me the strength to be faithful to Him." (1Timothy 1:12 LB) This process is a humbling privilege.

God has asked me to join Him where He is already working, and "I am glad to be a living demonstration

of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities." (2 Corinthians 12:9b LB) I can't wait to see what He does next. The urgency of my obedience to Him is so important. I must refuse to live this life unto myself, and realize that His most prized possession is the people He has placed around me. "Look around you! Vast fields of human souls are ripening all around us, and are ready now for reaping." (John 4:35b LB) Who are the people in your neighborhood that will be blessed by your obedience?



DECEMBER 2008

Welcome New Members

*David Beall
Sarah Brannan
Aaron Collins
Grace Cypert
Macey Goodrich
Michael Handel
Lisbeth Langley
Bethany McKinney
Austin Morton
Melody Phillips
Mike Pickerel
Carl Pospiech
Matthew Thompson
Daniel Wallace
Luke Wallace
Timothy Wallace*

Dedication of Parents and Little Children

Saturday, December 13 • 6 pm
Sunday, December 14 • 9 & 10:45 am
• To participate during one of the weekend services please contact Matt Schrader by Monday, Dec 1

Dedication questions?
extension 2330

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, Jan 4, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class

Membership questions?
extension 2370

Monday Night Church

Service and Meal

- Dec 8, 6 pm
- Christmas meal, Dec 15, 6 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Opportunities to Serve

- Help with childcare, prayer partners, sign language or food service
- Sign up this weekend on your communication card or call the office

Monday Night Church questions?
extension 2350

New Hope Concert

**Friday, January 9
7 pm**

Worship Center

Christmas at First B

Dec 6/7

Kid Country Christmas

Saturday 6 pm Chapel

Sunday 9 & 10:45 am Worship Center

Dec 13/14

Heart of Christmas

Saturday 6 pm Worship Center

Sunday 9 & 10:45 am Worship Center

Heart of Christmas takes place in the once-elegant drawing room of a young British writer in 1930. Frustrated, the young man struggles to ignore Christmas and finish his work amid piles of papers, stale tea and rubbish. Baffled by a parade of eccentric, uninvited guests, the young man is stunned to discover the guests have come to his home for a Christmas reunion. What happens next will change his life forever.

Dec 14

Acoustic Christmas

Sunday 10:45 am The Edge

Dec 20/21

Guest Musician: Doyle Dykes

Saturday 6 pm Worship Center

Sunday 9 & 10:45 am Worship Center

Doyle's distinct style of guitar music has amazed international audiences for years at venues such as the Grand Ole Opry and major music conventions in Germany and the U.K.

From signature compositions to great hymns, Doyle captures the soul of Christmas.



Dec 24

Christmas Eve

5:30 pm Worship Center

It's a family-friendly Christmas Eve celebration for the family featuring carol singing, special music and the Christmas story.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fusion Junior High

Sundays

- 9 am
- Chapel

Fusion Small Groups

- Wednesdays
- 6:45-8:30 pm
- Chapel

New Year's Eve Blow Out

- Wednesday, Dec 31, 8:30 pm
until Thursday, Jan 1, 7:30 am
- Meet at the Pavilion
- Fun at John's Incredible Pizza,
McHenry Bowl, Regal Cinema
and breakfast at the church
- \$45 before 12/31, \$55 at the door

Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

High School

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

128/Fuel Groups

- Wednesdays
- 6:45 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

IGNITE

- Sundays
- 7 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

Single Adults

Single Focus

- Sundays, 9 am
- The Point, upstairs
- *How to Develop Gratitude*

Dinner and a Movie

- Saturday, Dec 6
- 6-9 pm, The Point, downstairs
- Details at Single Focus

Single Adult questions?
extension 2373

Young Marrieds & Young Families

Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Garden
- Interactive teaching relevant for
today
- This month: *Stories That Can Rock
Your World* from Jesus' parables

Young Marrieds & Young Families
questions?
extension 2373

Family Dynamics Marriage • Family • Parenting

No Classes In December

- Have a blessed Christmas season

Beginning January 4

9 & 10:45 am

- The Point, downstairs
- *Four Principles of Living in
Relationship*
- Led by Terry Benner

Family Dynamics questions?
extension 2373

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, December 28

- 9 & 10:45 am
- An opportunity to express your faith in Jesus Christ publicly and allow others to share in your joy

If you'd like to be baptized, please call the church office

Baptism questions?
extension 2370

First Impressions

An Opportunity For You To Show Hospitality

- Welcome guests and help them find their way around the church campus
- One service, one Sunday per month
- Sign up at fbcmodesto.com or call the church office during the week for more information

First Impressions questions?
extension 2806

World Outreach

Night of Prayer For The World Info

- Not meeting in Dec, see you in Jan
- Monday, Jan 5 (first Monday each month)

Reception For

Todd & Sarah Hunnicutt

- Sunday, Jan 11
- 5:30 pm, Pavilion Garden

Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, The Point, upstairs

Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, CE Bldg, rms 340 & 341

World Outreach questions?
extension 2320

Worship Ministries

Worship Choir

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- The Point, downstairs
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship questions?
extension 2113

Men's Ministries

Super Bowl Breakfast Simulcast

- Saturday, Jan 31
- 7-9:30 am, Pavilion Concourse

Men's Small Groups

- Various groups available during the week, various times

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2355

Park Cafe

The Weather Outside Is Frightful ...

- Stop by and try a hot Tazo Chai Caramel Latte

Winter Volunteers Appreciated

- Be a part of this hospitality ministry during the 2nd hour on Sundays
- It's fun and training is provided
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?
extension 2373

Women's Ministries

Small Groups

- Various groups meeting at various times and locations

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2316

Recovery In Christ Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden
Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade
Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.

Recovery In Christ questions?
extension 2350

Pacesetters

Sundays

- 10:45 am, Pavilion Garden
- *Luke, Christian Ethics and Heaven, God's Great Reward*

Christmas Candlelight Brunch

- Sunday, Dec 7
- 10:30 am, Pavilion Garden

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, Dec 1, 3:30 pm
- NEW location: Fireside rm

Homebound & 80+

Communion and Luncheon

- Thursday, Dec 18
- 11 am, Pavilion Garden

Pacesetters questions?
extension 2355

Christian Martial Arts

For ages 8-17

- Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am
- The Family Room
- Small monthly fee

Martial Arts questions?
extension 2120

Looking For A Place To Serve?

Here's An Idea

- Serve as an usher
- Ages 16 and older
- Contact Dennis Chase for details

Usher questions?
extension 2807

Kid Country

Kid Country Christmas Rehearsal

- Saturday, Dec 6, Worship Center
TPC @ 9-10 am
HIS KIDS @ 9:30-10:30 am
- Please make this rehearsal a priority

Kid Country Christmas

- Sunday, Dec 7, 9 and 10:45 am
- TPC and HIS KIDS singing

Good News Bible Clubs In City Schools

- Beginning in January
- Sign up Sunday, Dec 7 at the table in the street
- You can provide prayer support, supplies or teach

Opportunities To Serve

- Many opportunities for you to help children learn more about Jesus
- Fill out a 2009 Kid Country helper card and turn it in Sunday

Kid Country questions?
extension 2120

Church Offices Closed

Christmas Eve
December 24 • noon

Christmas Day
December 25

New Year's Day
January 1, 2009

Rancho Santa Marta Mission Trip

January 16-24

- Help with mechanical, carpentry, yard work, painting, computers, sewing, orchard pruning, clean-up, work with local children and orphans
- \$250 per person

Rancho Santa Marta questions?
extension 2355

VITAL STATS

New Arrivals

October 12 • Collin Michael • 7 lbs. 2 oz., born to **Mike & Melinda Keller**
Grandparents are *Dale & Sheryl Monday*
Great-grandparents are *Eldon & Imogene Sawyer*

October 27 • Noah Christopher • 7 lbs. 14 oz., born to **Keith & Eden Henn**
Grandparents are *Claude & Gayleen Terry*
Great-grandmother is *Betty Terry*

November 15 • Jensen Laurence • 7 lbs. 11 oz., born to **David & Shelly Burke**
Grandparents are *Larry & Cindy Bull*

Sympathy Extended To

Ray & Marie McClellan in the loss of their grandson, Tim Money

Mike Corsaut in the loss of his step-grandmother, Eva Weimer

Joe Ribeiro in the loss of his brother, Tony Ribeiro

Vince and **Dennis Chase** in the loss of their step-mother, Erma Chase
Step-grandmother of *Heidi, Lori* and *Jonathan Chase*

Al Newman in the loss of his brother, Larry Newman

Memorial Gifts

First Baptist Church offers the opportunity to give monetary gifts in memory of a friend or loved one. These gifts are a wonderful way to honor one who has died and advance the work of the Lord as well. Acknowledgments of memorial gifts are sent to the donor and the bereaved family. Gifts have recently been received in memory of

Lloyd Parker • Ed & Charlotte Zuhlke