



HERITAGE BIBLE CHURCH of BAKERSFIELD

Spread the Word

Sharing God's faithfulness, yesterday, today and tomorrow

DECEMBER

Dates

3 Children's

Christmas Festival

4 Pillars Christmas

Open House

9 Women's Ministries

"Ornaments of Christmas"

18 Musical "Chris-Myth Busters"

23 12:00 PM

Church Office closes

24 5:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Caroling Service

25 10:45 AM

Christmas Day

Sunday Worship

26 Church Office

Closed

January 1

Regular Worship

Schedule



Celebrate Christmas!

The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a Savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists.

And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again?



Welcome to Advent Conspiracy, a movement calling us to proclaim Christ in how we celebrate Christmas. Advent Conspiracy was started in 2006 by five pastors who decided to make Christmas a revolutionary event by encouraging their faith communities to Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All. The response was overwhelming and the Conspiracy was born. The vision for this project is a collaboration between Rick McKinley of Imago Dei Community in Portland, OR; Greg Holder from Windsor Crossing in St. Louis, MO; and Chris Seay of Ecclesia in Houston, TX.

WORSHIP FULLY
SPEND LESS
GIVE MORE
LOVE ALL

Advent Conspiracy is a resource for churches to engage in authentic Worship and Giving at Christmas more fully – a simple idea for you to take and run with. Be as creative and bless those in need by giving relationally as God gave His Son to us at Christmas. No money comes to or through Advent Conspiracy. You decide where and how you would like to Give More to those in need. The concept behind Advent Conspiracy is simple... cont'd. pg 3

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Esther Bible

Study Class

YOUTH NEWS ON MISSION

The Youth Group wants to express thanks to the church family who shared generously in November, filling 19 Boxes of Love to feed 19 families in our community. What a blessing this will be! Many thanks to all who participated in the Boxes of Love blessing.

In December, the youth plan to bless our village residents with Christmas caroling during their Christmas parties which are scheduled for JV on December 14, and ROCK December 18.

In January the youth will travel to winter camp at Hume Lake. Pray that hearts would be prepared and open to the lessons God wants our youth to learn.

Missions Commission at HBC is a group of people with a passion for sharing Christ with the world.

In late November, the team hosted Josh Gonzales, a pastor who is working to establish a Christian church in the Salt Lake Valley of Utah. Josh came out to spend an evening with us at HBC where he spoke about his heart for sharing Jesus with his neighbors, and the challenges of his calling. It was an inspirational evening that ended with Pastor Dave challenging us to a church-wide mission trip of 100 people next summer to travel to Utah and assist New Hope Church's ministry there. Watch for more information as this event is planned!



Angel Tree is a ministry of Prison Fellowship and an outreach opportunity that does not take much effort to accomplish.

1.7 million children in the United States have a parent in prison. One in three prisoners is a parent. Angel Tree reaches children of incarcerated parents with Christ's love thorough volunteers and the local church. As an outreach ministry, we bless both parent and child when we pick up an Angel Tree angel, available in early December in the Social Hall, and purchase the requested gift, which is then delivered to the child in the name of

the parent and in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our investment in the lives of prisoners' children can help break the generational cycle of crime, giving the children greater options and hope for a more positive future.

Changing families' lives will lead to changing our communities, helping to restore the peace, safety, and harmony that crime has helped destroy.

If the church doesn't reach out to them, who will? We alone—as the body of Christ—can offer the one true source of peace and reconciliation: the hope of Jesus Christ.

Please help by volunteering, purchasing a gift, and delivering gifts to these families. Contact Cynthia Patton to volunteer your time, 873-1875.

What to Give at Christmas:

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, time.
- To a customer, service.
- To all men, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.
- To Jesus, your life.



As we head into December and the end of our business year, please turn in all expense receipts to the business office by the 15th of the month, so that the office staff has ample time to make checks out before closing books at the end of the year. You are asked to complete necessary purchases and turn in receipts by Dec 15th.

We will be changing over to Quickbooks software on Jan 1. You should anticipate delays in getting requested checks for payment or reimbursement out during January. Please plan for this temporary slow down, anticipate your needs and plan extra time to accomplish timely payment.

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Continued from Pg. 1

WORSHIP FULLY

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of Advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

[SPEND LESS]

Before you think we're getting all Scrooge on you, let us explain what we mean. We like gifts. Our kids really like gifts. But consider this: America spends an average of \$450 billion a year every Christmas. How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Thanks, but no thanks, right? We're asking people to consider buying ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. Just one. Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during the advent season. Looking for a few gifts that don't cost a lot of money? Need some more ideas for relational giving? Head to www.RethinkingChristmas.com today.

[GIVE MORE]

God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So it's no wonder why we're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can't be found at the mall. Time to make a gift that turns into the next family heirloom. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies and sing really bad Christmas carols. Time to make love visible through relational giving. Sounds a lot better than getting a sweater two sizes too big, right?

[LOVE ALL]

When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined. Though rich, He became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most. When Advent Conspiracy first began four churches challenged this simple concept to its congregations. The result raised more than a half million dollars to aid those in need. One less gift. One unbelievable present in the name of Christ. Heritage Bible Church will take a special offering on Christmas Eve and Christmas day which will be donated to an identified Advent Conspiracy project. Ask the Lord how He wants your family to participate and plan to give. But that's not all— plan to share how the Advent Conspiracy made a difference in your holiday this year. Send your story to hbc@heritagebible.us and the stories will be printed in the January newsletter issue. Big or small, every story counts!

DRIVE THRU DINNER Benefitting Heritage Schools

Cost: \$32

Payment Due: December 9 in the school office

Pick up Date: December 13 in the west parking lot by the church office.

This month's meal will be from Café Med

Family Fun for Kids!

On December 3, join us in the Gym for our annual **Children's Christmas Festival**, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday morning.



We will serve a free pancake breakfast, followed by free crafts for kids to make as gifts or just for fun.

Don't miss out on this family morning to share time, give more, and love fully as your family spends time making memories together.

If you do not have little ones, please consider helping make memories for families by volunteering to greet, help serve food, or help kids make crafts. This is a day to bless young families! Join us for Christmas family fun! Call Pastor David Newton, 871-1212.



Women's Ministry



Women's Ministry of Heritage Bible Church invites all women to attend a Christmas celebration, **"Ornaments for Christ"** on Friday evening, December 9, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall.

Bring a Christmas tree ornament to exchange at the party, and bring Christmas cookies to share. Oh and *do not clean out your purse!* **Just don't!**

We need ten ladies who will take responsibility for decorating a table for the evening. Plan to bring a centerpiece, napkins, and dishes for tea or coffee and dessert. White tablecloths will be provided.

Plan to come and enjoy an evening of friends and fun!

In January, join us for an incredible Bible study on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 PM in the book of James. We will go on this adventure with our teacher, Beth Moore, via DVD, on the big screen in the auditorium. Cost of the study book is \$20.

that's just over \$2 a week, which is cheaper than Starbucks, and better for you!

From My Corner

By Michelle Welch



Wow... what a run we have had in our fall **women's Bible study, "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman"** by Beth Moore. I learned **words I didn't know** existed. I learned that God loves us enough to orchestrate a holy set-up in order to speak to me in monumental ways, just as He spoke to Esther. I learned that sometimes we grab the **hem of Christ's garment** and hang on for dear life. Other times, he brushes past us in the room, brings a miracle and **we didn't even notice** he was there. What an amazing God! And I learned that there is a sweet, sweet destiny waiting for the one who is willing to turn his or her life over to the Lord and walk in His will and His word.

We examined how tough it is to be a woman: in a mean world, in a world where beauty is a treatment, in the tight fist of fear, when we feel **responsible for the 'how' of** getting things accomplished around us! And we looked at the truth that its tough being a woman who can bal-

ance passion with patience.

But oh my sisters in the Lord, we also examined closely how God turns every situation around when we are willing to give him control and live according to his instruction! For the Lord longs to be gracious to us (Isaiah 30: 18), He knows how to rescue the godly from trials (2 Peter 2: 9), He holds us in the tight fist of His hand (Isaiah 49: 16), he turns the curse into blessing for us (Deut. 23: 5), he teaches us how to fight the good fight with faith and a good conscience (1 Tim. 1: 18-19) and my sister friends, *He has made everything beautiful in His time* (Eccl. 3: 11)!

I pray that the work we did, the tears we shed, the lessons we learned will be engraved onto each heart, and I pray **that "we who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the Shadow of the Almighty" (Ps. 91:1).**

Oh my sisters, don't miss our next adventure into God's word in January. It is a divine appointment for each one of us. See you then!

Spread the Word is a monthly publication of Heritage Bible Church 2323 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93306

Submit articles for publication to hbc@heritagebible.us. All submissions subject to editing.

Worship Services - Sunday 9:00am & 10:45am, Adult Bible Classes 9:00am & 10:45am Youth Sunday mornings 9:00 AM only

Children's Sunday School - 9:00am & 10:45am ~ Church office hours Mon. thru Fri. -8:00am - 5:00pm except holidays

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