

December 2007

Linking us with the ministries of our church

Christmas in Dallas

If you're looking to make some unique memories around town during this month, you might consider:

- Holiday at the Arboretum: decorated with a fairy-tale theme this year depicting favorite children's stories and nursery rhymes [\$5-\$8, depending on age]
- Prairie Lights on Joe Pool Lake: drive-through theme park features two miles of holiday exhibits with 3 million lights [Mon-Thur, \$12/car; Fri-Sun, \$15/car]
- Trains at North Park Mall: 2,500 feet of track passing Times Square, Washington, D.C., and the Dallas skyline [\$3-\$5; get \$1 off at Tom Thumb]
- Kathy Burks' The Nutcracker: 500 puppets perform this classic tale with 1,500 marionettes [Rosewood Center; \$14-\$23]
- Old City Park by Candlelight: leave the 21st century for a day; seniors on Thurs, Dec. 6 from noon to 2:00 PM [\$5]; all ages on Dec. 8 or 9 from 3:00 to 9:00 PM [\$6-10]
- Holiday Productions: find your event at the Eisemann (eisemanncenter.com) or Dallas Symphony (dallasymphony.com)

Building Fund Update

After just two Sundays, forty-four contributions totaling \$9604 have been given toward our goal of \$57,250, leaving a balance of \$47,646! We're on our way. Please join me in prayer that we complete the project by December 31.

Christmas at Redeemer

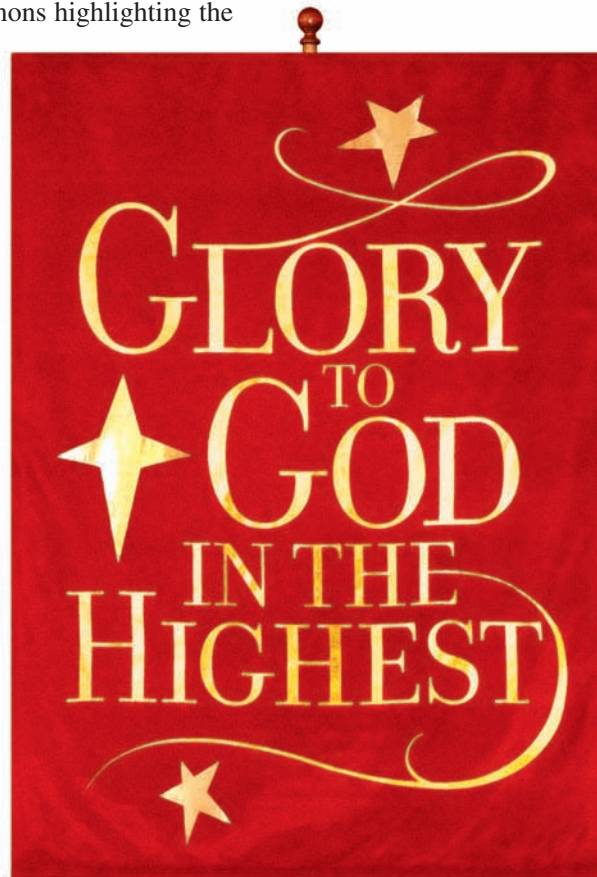
Glory – Our Ninth Annual Christmas Celebration

Candles and banners, poinsettias and choirs, bright children and warm carols will adorn our Christmas praise to Jesus this year. Our worship will include songs, Scriptures, and sermons highlighting the incomparable glory of God. We'll enjoy four advent worship services that will focus our hearts and minds on the true and glorious Christmas message. Special highlights include music from Handel's *Messiah*, handbells, harps, our children's choir, youth choir, sermons highlighting God's glory, and you, the Redeemer family, singing the beloved carols and hymns of the season.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 6:00 PM

Always a highlight in the life of our church, the Christmas Eve service is a thoughtful flow of Scripture, carols, uplifting music, a Luke 2 recitation by

one of our children, and a Christmas story. We'll finish our service and prepare for Christmas morning by singing *Silent Night* amid the soft candlelight filling our sanctuary. Be sure to come and bring your loved ones to this service.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for filling a record 164 shoe boxes for children around the world during our drive for Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Our boxes went by truck to Denver, Colorado, to be processed and now they are on the way around the world to children who desperately need a special touch of love this Christmas season. Along with these extraordi-

nary gift boxes comes the message that these children are precious to God. They will hear the gospel clearly presented. Thank you for your part in bringing joy to these kids and advancing the glory of God this Christmas season.

In a Word

Bless the Lord, O my soul

Don Geiger, Senior Pastor

It's Thanksgiving evening at the Geigers, the end of one of those it-doesn't-get-much-better-than-this days. I recount this day with the prayer that its very ordinariness will remind us all just how blessed we are, stir a few memories, and lengthen the list of God's mercies for which we are grateful. Our day began as usual – coffee and the morning paper. Then **Alice** headed for the kitchen – there were the traditional pecan and apple pies to make, Colorado potatoes (from **Doris Porter**) to peel, and so much more. Grandson **Chad** and I, thinking traffic would be light on Thanksgiving Day, headed for I-30 – his first time to drive the freeway. It was traffic as usual – busy and fast; but Chad handled it well, and I arrived home with nerves intact, grateful for the opportunity to help him take this giant step toward manhood – earning his driver's license.

Around noon our two Dallas-area families arrived, and things livened up. Having **Fran's** mother (visiting from Pennsylvania) at the table with us just made it better. As always, the food was abundant, varied, and delicious, the chatter warm and family-friendly. While the main meal settled to make room for dessert, our thoughts and conversation turned to gratitude, people and things for which we were particularly thankful. Family was high on everyone's list, including the rich spiritual heritage we enjoy. Music of many styles, some sung for us (Anyone remember *Shoo Fly Pie and Apple Pan Dowdy?*), art, books, sports, freedom, education, vacations, medical technology, nature's infinite and beautiful variety, drinkable water, Cowboys winning season, computers... the list was long.

Our two Midwest families were together for Thanksgiving and contributed their list via email (for which we are all grateful, spam excepted). Their list began - the Lord, church, the Colts (in that order, I was relieved to note), houses, remote controls, school, Christmas, friends, the Bible, hot water, Heaven, (they're obviously the more spiritual wing of the family!), Dale Hollow Lake, climbing mountains, refrigerators, furnaces, cousins, grandparents, air-planes, humor, glasses, cell phones, pencils, the weather channel, the mute button, wheels, plastic dishes on Thanksgiving, each new day, bed time, electricity, hope, the Cross, pictures, baths, games, no slavery, microwaves, feet, horses and last — but they made the list — dentists. These lists don't begin to plumb the depths of the mercies God continues to lavish on all of us, but I trust they will stir you, as they have me, to *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!* (Ps 103:1).

It's getting late; the families are gone; the Cowboys have won; the Colts appear to have their game in hand; and our thoughts turn to one more theme of gratitude, a recurrent one in our home, you: the Redeemer family. We often thank God for you both as a church family and also for each of you individually. We thank God for you by name, by groups, and by ministries. We thank God for your love for the Lord and for each other, for your servant-hearted service, for your care for the hurting and lonely, for your enthusiasm, humility, and faithfulness. We thank God for worship services where we truly worship, then leave with a renewed commitment to fulfill the benediction which blesses us each week. So . . .

Go into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; honor all men; strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak; help the suffering; remember to be grateful, and share the Gospel. Love and serve the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen.

In a word *bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!*

Short Term Missions 2008

"It changed my priorities." "I never thought there was something I could do, but I found out there was." "I learned that you don't have to be a great teacher, you just have to care." What do these comments have in common? They were made by individuals following a short-term trip. Have you every considered short-term missions? It is a great opportunity to be a part of what God is doing around the world. Planning has begun for Redeemer's 2008 short-term ministries. Your prayers, skills, gifts, working hands and caring hearts are needed. Please prayerfully consider the following opportunities. There is a place for you! An informational meeting will be held in Room 113 following the worship service on December 9. If you would like to hear more about these opportunities, please plan to attend.

Ministry in the Philippines Dr.

Larry and Mary Waters will be leading a team to the Philippines from May 29 to June 10. The ministry will involve a wide range of activities including evangelism, teaching, testimonies, Bible studies, and work with Compassion International.

English in Mexico Six to eight individuals will be joining our missionaries **Jonathan and Barbara Baker** to serve the Lord in Pachuca, Mexico. We will be involved in teaching English and children's ministry. The dates for this trip have tentatively been set for June 21 to 29.

Word of Life Camp in Hungary

Language and sports instruction draw youth to the camp where they experience the love of God and hear the Gospel. We will be sending a team of 5 to 6 adults to work with **Laci and Szandra Kadar** to teach conversational English from July 25 to August 3.

Helps International in

Guatemala We will be returning to Guatemala from August 2 to 10 to continue the work with Helps International installing simple, safe, and efficient wood-burning stoves. This hands-on ministry is a very tangible way to demonstrate



the love of God and to open the door for opportunities to share the Gospel.

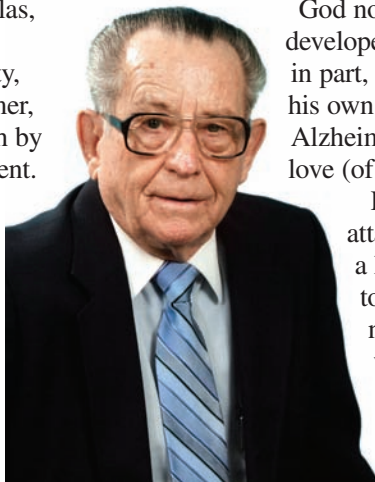
Getting to Know You: Harvey Alford

Tommie Loveless

Harvey Alford is a man with an intriguing life story, a strong heart for God, and a deep love for our church family. Harvey was born and raised about 85 miles northeast of Dallas, near Sulphur Springs. Reflecting on his early years, Harvey recalled that “none of the farms had electricity, running water, gas, or indoor plumbing. In the summer, the nights were especially hot! We traveled to church by horse and wagon. We walked everywhere else we went. As a teen, I was a member of The Missionary Baptist Church, although I wasn’t saved.”

Although the seed of his love for God had not yet germinated in 1957, Harvey’s love for his future wife, **Joyce Ann**, was blossoming. They married on Valentine’s Day, 1958, and God blessed them with three daughters, nine grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Almost twenty years after marrying Joyce, Harvey’s love for God bloomed. Harvey recalls, “It was the Saturday before Easter in 1976, when the Lord called me and saved me.” My wife and I then joined Believer’s Chapel and were very active in the church. The church was far from where we lived, so we eventually moved to Scofield Church, and then on to Reinhardt Bible Church. **Don Geiger** was Reinhardt’s pastor at the time. We were there until I was sent to Lubbock, where I worked for a couple of years.”

Working as an engineer at Texas Instruments for 31 years, Harvey received numerous commendations for outstanding performance and for meeting seemingly impossible deadlines. He is



particularly known for establishing a \$10-million-dollar lab to analyze state-of-the-art processing operations. Harvey retired in 1989.

God not only gave Harvey a tough business side, but also developed in him a tender side. God “tenderized” him, in part, through care of a father-in-law with leukemia, his own father with a heart condition, his mother with Alzheimers, his mother-in-law with a stroke, and his true love (of 48 years!) with cancer.

Following Joyce Ann’s death and his ninth heart attack, while he was in the hospital recovering from a heart attack, Harvey was more than ready for God to take him home to heaven. But God sent a special nurse to ask Harvey (after 21 days of ICU) if he wanted some soup. “I had lost 30 pounds in 15 days and did not want anything to eat, but she brought it to me anyway. It tasted so delicious! It was that soup that helped me begin to recover.”

In addition to the soup, Redeemer Bible has been a critical part of God’s recovery program for Harvey. He reports that God has worked in him the most significant spiritual growth of his life since he began worshiping with us. He attended the GriefShare recovery group, is involved with the Seekers Fellowship, and is studying Daniel on Wednesday nights. He invites you to ask him about his favorite Scriptures and what God has to say about technology in the book of Daniel!

Harvey, you model well for us what it means to deeply love the Lord and depend on Him. It’s good to know you and have you here.

Needed Improvements

Recently, your curiosity may have been piqued by a golf cart shuttling people to their cars or scaffolding resting in our back parking lot. If you’d like that curious itch scratched, read on and be encouraged in the Lord.

As 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 reminds us, “*There are different kinds of gifts... but the same God works all of them in all men.*” God moves in us and through us in various ways to meet a myriad of needs, and our new six-seat golf cart is a reminder of that. Sensing a burden from the Lord to help our church family get to and from the main building (during inclement weather, to remote parking, with mobility impairment, etc.), a couple from our church family anonymously designated this people-mover as a special gift. In service for a month now, God has blessed many through this special designated gift.



You recently received a letter from **Pastor Geiger** about another needed improvement and designated gift opportunity: roof repairs. Replacing the education wing soffit and re-roofing the fellowship hall are necessary parts of serving God from an almost 50-year-old campus. And, thanks to the wise initiatives of our deacons and your generosity through designated gifts, in God’s grace we’ll continue to do so in a well-cared-for facility... for the *next* 50 years.

In one very real sense our church is only located at 721 Easton when we gather there: Redeemer Bible Church is people, not a building. But, roof repairs and people-movers enable us to gather and do our mission: “glorify God, build up each other in love, and reach out to nonbelievers to



win them to Christ.” Thank you for your active and unique part in this grand mission: including your willingness to follow God’s leading in response to the physical needs of our people and property.

Homes for the Holidays

Five Redeemer families (the **Cards, Cavenders, Epplers, Judds** and **Reibensteins**) warmly invite you to visit them in their festively decorated homes for the Christmas Tour of



Homes on Saturday, December 15, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Tickets must be purchased in advance and shown at each home.



Kudos to Jerry Loveless

Working in the copper foil technique made famous by L.C. Tiffany, **Jerry Loveless** produced this beautiful stained glass art and entered it in the 2007 Texas State Fair Creative Arts competition. Jerry won second place!

Behind the Curtain

David and Virginia Tatom teach us a great deal about the creativity, heart, and ways of God. This couple's adventurous spirit, love of the outdoors, and interest in youth are windows into God's heart and Word. 1 Peter 1:10-11: *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms ... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."* David and Virginia are doing just that.

Each year, the Tatoms survey, plan, and co-lead (with our youth pastor, **Blake Barbre**) an outdoor adventure for our youth group to the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma. Away from the noise and lights of the city, our youth experience together the wonder of God's creation through star-gazing, rock climbing, camping, hiking, and more. Away from their parents and normal church routine, the youth



are also gently challenged to consider where they are in their walk with their majestic and holy Creator.

David and Virginia are also investing in the next generation's walk with God by teaching Sunday school to our third through sixth graders. The Tatom's sincerity, creativity and energy speak volumes to this group of kids each week about God's presence, power and plan for their lives. The children come to understand that God is not a boring, old, gray-bearded King in heaven; He's real, He's interesting, and He's worth knowing — a good reminder for us all.

In 1 Peter 4:10-11, God encouragingly reminds us that His grace is expressed in various forms and ways. Thank you, David and Virginia, for living out this truth and, in your unique and creative

way, pointing us and our youth to Christ. To Him be the glory, in heaven and on earth, forever!

Meeting Location:
721 Easton Road
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B I B L E C H U R C H
Redeemer