



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

GOOD NEWS!



Being Salt and Light

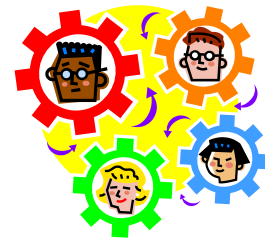
The signature Scripture of our after-school ministry is Matthew 5:13-16. In those verses Jesus commanded that we are to bring the light of God's truth to the people around us in the world, and to be the salt that gives the flavor of knowing Him to everyone. Our Salt & Light Company does that! We reach children and teens who receive no other Christian education, as well as reinforcing and strengthening kids of First Presbyterian families to enable them to be salt and light in their world.

Last Sunday, the after Worship congregational dinner netted just over \$1,000 of much-needed financial support for Salt & Light. Thank you to those who came. It was an excellent dinner, wasn't it? If you were unable to attend, your contribution will still be gratefully received in the church office or in the collection plates.

Have you registered the teens and children of your family? Have you resolved to pray regularly for the kids and volunteers, and for the effectiveness of the ministry? Have you volunteered yet? Salt & Light begins at 4:00 PM on September 9th (6:00 for High Schoolers.)

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Helping Others



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

We would like to Thank you very much for the help that was given to our family during my brother's home flooding. Thank you for being part of our family.

Sincerely,

Eddie and Corina Armendariz



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View From the Pew

by Ann M. Velia

Dressed in our "Sunday Best"

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him; Worship the Lord in holy array. - I Chronicles 16:29, New American Standard Bible.

When I was in grade school, summer's end meant a shopping trip through the Sears Roebuck catalog for a few new school dresses and a pair of sturdy oxfords or penny loafers up to the task of walking seven blocks to school and back.

I had a separate ensemble for Sunday, purchased months earlier -- my Easter dress and pretty, impractical shoes, usually patent leather flats trimmed with grosgrain bows or shiny metal buckles. This was my "holy array" -- my "Sunday best."

I'll confess, I still wear "holy" and "not-so-holy" wardrobes -- my attitudes.

I generally show up at church with a smile on my face, all my courtesies at the ready, and a desire to ascribe glory to God in my heart.

Almost as soon as I leave the parking lot, however, the sacred atmosphere of Sunday worship gives way to the profane realities of life in a fallen world. My "Sunday best" is spoiled by "unmentionables" peeking out beneath my outer garments -- impatience, anger, apathy, selfishness, ingratitude, self-pity.

Colossians 3:9-14 counsels that we should lay aside *"the old self with its evil practices and...put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him...as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."*

Such clothing honors the Lord all week long.



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Sharing



Let us express our heartfelt appreciation for all that your congregation has done for the Clothing Room and the children that we are able to make a difference of in their lives. We wish we could share their smiles and glee in the start of each school year. This could not be done without the help of you as a group and as individuals. Imagine over 500 children last year! Wow – what blessing you are to these children.

Gospel Rescue Mission Clothing Room,

Wylene Saunders

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No ocean can hold it back.

No river can overtake it.

No whirlwind can go faster.

No army can defeat it.

No law can stop it.

No distance can slow it.

No disease can cripple it.

No force on earth is more powerful or effective than the power of prayer.

Linn Carlson, DaySpring writer



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Presbyterian Women's Circle meetings

Morning Circle in the Parlor and Mary Martha Circle in the Library on Sept. 8 at 9:30 AM.



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News from the Trudell's

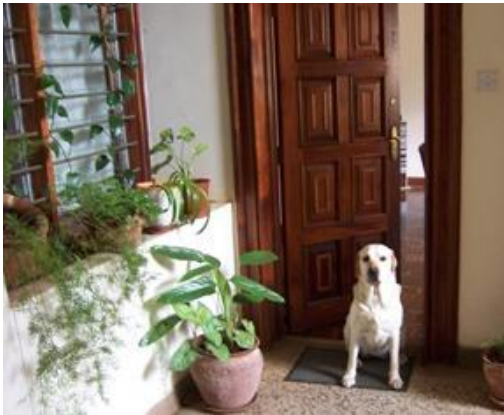
Hi friends,

Last week we were part of a landmark social event here in Kenya: the National Census! Yep, three very nice people from the government came and counted us, and now we feel like bona fide Kenyan residents.

The questions were as enlightening as any answers we had to give. Along with the expected questions about age, nationality and job, they asked things like:

- Do you have a refrigerator?
- Do you own a tuk tuk (motorized three-wheel bicycle)?
- Is this marriage monogamous or polygamous?

And after establishing that we live in a 5-room apartment in the middle of the city, they asked: Do you have any cattle? Goats? Horses? Chickens? Camels? Sheep? Donkeys? After a disappointing series of "no" replies, they finally got to "dogs" and so Tessa got counted too.



(Here is Tessa the Dog, waiting at our front door for the census people to come and count her!)

If you'd like to pray for us, here are some things on our hearts these days:

1. We leave at 11 pm tonight for our next trips. Joel is going to Nigeria for a week, and then to a missiology conference in the UK. His Nigeria visa arrived just barely in time on Friday, so we know he is meant to make this trip! Please pray for his interactions with Nigerian colleagues who are involved in Bible translation in that country, that a spirit of teamwork would prevail over any sense of territoriality. Also I'd like him to be safe in the air and on the roads there.

2. I will go to Norwich (UK), UNESCO Paris and Oxford for a series of conferences and SIL representation activities. As usual on these trips, I look forward to seeing who the Lord will put in my way to talk with about the needs of the marginalized language communities of Africa. He probably has some Christians tucked away here and there, and they are always fun to meet! But I am certain there will be plenty of opportunities to be "salt and light", so pray that I will be just that.



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3. Please pray for my foot, too. A podiatrist tells me I have plantar fasciitis, which I believe is doctor-speak for "it really hurts to walk!!" I am trying to figure out how I am going to do what the Lord has for me on this trip if I can hardly get around - and so I am asking Him to intervene in a very obvious way. If you would pray with me on this, I would be so grateful.

Lord bless you, friends - and thank you again for the crucial part you play in our ability to serve the Lord and those He loves here in Africa.

Yours,

Barbara (and for Joel too) Trudell

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Young Disciples in Action

