

the

FEBRUARY 2009 EDITION

# FOCAL Point

CENTERED ON ACTIVITIES OF TOLEDO FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FAMILY



*In the same way  
the Father loves  
me, so I love you.*

*You need to  
demonstrate that  
kind of love to  
others.*

*—John 15:9  
Clear Word*

*leahleah*

## ✧ Attend Valentines for India Banquet ✧

*Event February 14th is a Fundraiser for New Light India*

This Valentine's Day our church will be looking at love through the beautiful eyes of little boys and girls living in Kolkata [Calcutta], India. New Light is a non-profit organization operating in Ward 83, Kalighat, one of Kolkata's oldest and most notorious red light districts. Zana Briski's award winning [and heartbreaking] documentary, "Born into Brothels," was filmed only minutes from the center.

In 2000, Kolkata social worker Urmi Basu opened a shelter for the children of prostitutes who roamed the streets at night while their mothers entertained clients. Later she established Soma Memorial Girl's Home outside of Kalighat for teens who would otherwise be forced to follow after the grim trades of their mothers.

Since the opening of New Light, the organization has grown into a comprehensive community development program meeting the needs of Kalighat's men, women and children. Gynecological care, HIV testing, counseling support, and legal assistance is available free of cost to women of the community, and literacy classes are now offered to both men and women in order to break the cycle of poverty. A number of other projects are also in the planning stages, such as micro-credit loans for women who want to start small businesses, an AIDS hospice, a bakery and florist shop where Kalighat teens can learn vocational skills, and a Soma companion boy's home for young men who would otherwise turn to drugs, alcohol, and pimping in Kalighat's sordid alleys. Founder Urmi Basu will be receiving the "Unsung Heroes" award this April from the Dalai Lama in San Francisco.

On February 14th Youth Operate and Women's Ministries are teaming up to host "Valentines for India," a benefit dinner for the children of New light. Tickets are \$10 per person and

*Continued on next page, bottom*

*The more we understand God's love for us, the more we'll show God's love to others.*

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## Seen at Toledo First during January

At our first worship service in January we were happy to welcome Pastor Rachel Davies [photo 1] who transferred her membership from Bellingham, Washington. Donna Schuster presented her with a welcome

basket [held by Craig Horvath]. We saw icicles all month long [photo 2].... A beautiful flower arrangement graced our sanctuary [photo 3]. Maxwell & Sharita Nkrumah-Abrokwah brought their baby, Edward, for dedication to the

Lord on January 24. A memorial service was held that afternoon for Elder Leonard Marsa who pastored for 60 years in Illinois. He joined our church in 2005 after moving here to be closer to his son, Dr. Gerald Marsa, and family. Allan

Wolfson [photo 6] spoke at the memorial. *We thank Jeff Batchelder for taking the pictures which we share here. ##*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FEB 1**  
Souper Bowl of Caring, 6 PM

**FEB 4**  
Taking Charge Finance Class, 7 PM

**FEB 14**  
Valentines for India Banquet

**FEB 21**  
Movie Night, 7 PM

*Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting [toledofirstadventist.org](http://toledofirstadventist.org)*

### Valentines for India (continued from front page)

include a delicious full Indian meal, lovely decor, and a presentation by Pastor Rachel Davies about her experiences with New Light. Please make your reservations by Feb. 7th by calling the church office at 419.882.6200. Please give your name, phone number and number in your party. Or email the information to: [dee@toledofirstadventist.org](mailto:dee@toledofirstadventist.org).

If you are unable to attend but would like to help with the cause, make your check to the church with a notation that you wish to give to: Valentines for India project. ##



Don't miss Movie Night in February! Come see a fun family movie on February 21 at 7 PM for a night of laughs! Toledo Junior Academy will again be hosting in the fellowship hall! We'll provide the popcorn free of charge. Drinks and other movie snacks will be available for purchase.

We're inviting all our friends and families from TJA and James Meade Learn-

ing Center. You come, too! ##

### Kid Connect is hot!

Equipped with a new black and red flame-patterned tent, our 5 - 12 year olds are learning about the God of the Universe each Sabbath. Our current unit is based on Philippians 2:15, where Paul encourages believers to "Shine like Stars" for Jesus. The fusion of elements like Hydrogen into new elements like Helium is what makes stars luminous in the night sky. So it is that as Christ changes us "from glory to glory" that we also shine

brightly for Him! We are eagerly needing hands to help with crafts and songs and story-telling each week. Contact Pastor Rachel if you would like to participate in this very special ministry to our children. Pastor Rachel ##



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# Outreach events are back-to-back...

First, invite your friends to the International Food Fest on Saturday evening, January 31st, 7 PM where they will be delighted with the variety of foods to try. This year we're having Egg Rolls from Philippines, Tacos and Enchiladas from Mexico, Gyoza and Inarizushi from Japan, Tasta [Noodles & Cabbage - always a crowd pleaser!] from Hungary, Pizza from Italy [sorry chef Tony at right, no meat balls!], Dahl and Kabuli Channa from India, Cheesecake from Greece, Orange Julius and Pina Coladas, and a surprise from Africa! Come and enjoy the food, fellowship and a little Mariachi music, too. Mingle with our friends and parents from Toledo Junior Academy and James Meade Learning Center. Proceeds benefit the Welcome Baskets given to new members.##



## International Food Fest



Then the next night, February 1st at 6 PM, you're invited back for our 12th annual Super Bowl party. This year it has a charitable twist. We are asking everyone to bring two cans of soup to help feed the hungry. Like every year, we'll have pizza and munchies for everyone. Come and bring a friend or two and cheer on your favorite team seen on the 'bigger than life' screen. Halftime will include a special video. ##

## **It's not too late—You can TAKE CHARGE!**

The second of our Taking Charge Community Finance Classes was cancelled for snow. The new date is Wednesday, February 4, 7 PM. So plan to come. Shanyng Stewart, Senior Wealth Advisor, will share some very practical ways of saving money, and increasing income without getting a second job. That additional income then can be used to pay down debt. The class is free and open to everyone. Next scheduled finance classes will be in October. ##

## **Where Your Heart Is**



The sermon series, *Where Your Heart Is*, continues [January 24 - February 21]. In the remaining weeks we'll learn how badly Jesus wants to be Lord of all our time, talents, and treasure. With the economy tanking and anticipated giving trends changing, we all need to be proactive and take more ownership and responsibility for the ministry and outreach opportunities Toledo First provides. Not from a spirit of fear, but of faith [[2 Timothy 1:7](#)]. So what can you do?

Pick up the invitation cards at the back of church and share them with your

friends and family

Plan to attend/[read/watch](#) the entire series January 24 - February 21, 2009

Pray for me as I prepare and share!

Email me [[mike4tune@gmail.com](mailto:mike4tune@gmail.com)] your helpful YouTube vids, illustrations, cartoons, or anecdotes about any kind of giving

Tell me your story. How has God blessed you when you sincerely give and live for Him? —Pastor Mike##

## Sing praises at TF's Second Service

Come and join the 5 PM "Connections" crowd each Saturday. They are led in praising the Lord each week by Janica Peppard on keyboard and vocal, along with some able backup by Sheila Case, Pastor Rachel, Ideisha Fincher, Gary Gooden [vocal and guitar], Danny Hall [percussion], and Ron Szczechowski at the sound board.

If anyone is interested in working with the team, please contact Janica for rehearsal times.

Otherwise, just come and praise the Lord and bring a friend who does not normally do church. ##

## Ben Carson movie will be on TV February 7

"Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story" will be broadcast on TNT at 8 PM on February 7th. Cuba Gooding, Jr. will portray Dr. Benjamin Carson.

Based on his memoir, the movie will trace Carson's journey from frustrated inner-city kid to director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

Carson is a member of Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. ##

## Order fruit 2 more times

Fruit from Florida will arrive February 13 and April 3.

Orders for February must be in by Friday noon, February 13. Order Grapefruit, California Navels, Temples and Tangerines. Order whole cases or half. For more information, please call Toledo Junior Academy at 419.841.0082. ##

## Adventurers & Pathfinders are busy!

Adventurers (grades 1-4) has had a booming success since we started in September. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00.

We would like to thank Pastor Mike and Pastor Rachel for all their help with worship each week. And special thanks to all the parents who have helped assist us with all our activities. We have been busy.

We learned memory verses (last week in Jell-O); sometimes with balloons.



We learned about whales by measuring their lengths in the foyer.

We made whales and sharks out of pompoms; and have painted just about every week. We've been glueing...a lot!

We've been tasting and making things—using rolling pins, and measuring spoons and cups.

We have cut a lot of things—even sawed a few items.

We have used pliers to bend wire—with a lot of adult help. And we've played all kinds of games.

We have even had a party where we were all dressed up like animals. And we have another party planned in February.

Pathfinders (grades 5-8) is meeting the 1st and 3rd Sabbaths between 2 - 4 PM, and the 4th Sunday as scheduled.

We have been biking once and hope the weather gets nicer soon so we can continue. A big thanks to Leonard Jessop for all his help the first time around.

We have been building photo holders, skeletons of animals out of wood, painting, glueing, and memorizing.



We will be having a couple of sleep overs soon, with a campout to follow this spring. Make sure you have your bikes all dusted off and ready to go!

—Linda Bilby, Adventurer/Pathfinder Leader ##

## Renewed and Ready!

Last year, Pacific Press introduced a new lifestyle magazine for Seventh-day Adventists age 50 and older called *Renewed & Ready*.

They had extra copies left from 2008 and so they sent us some samples, which are on the table in the foyer. Help yourself! You may order a subscription from the Adventist Book Center or by checking ordering information in the magazine. ##

## Cradle Roll News

Cradle Roll/Beginners (age 0-4) has had an exciting 2008 Year. We have promoted eight children to Kindergarten...but, our numbers are dwindling! Please keep us in your prayers during 2009. We have been studying our Gracelink lessons as well as a main theme of Noah. We meet every Sabbath morning from 9:30 - 10:45 and we invite all the little children to join us. ##



Next Business Meeting is February 23.