

the

FEBRUARY 2008 EDITION

# FOCAL Point

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



*They are the true disciples of Christ, not who know most, but who love most.*  
Spanheim



## ✧ What's Cross-Promotional Outreach? ✧

It's ordinary outreach. With more than one "bulls-eye." Galatians 6:14 says it this way: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." And part of that world is closer than you think! Every day parents and guardians of the children in our daycare and church school come marching through our doors. And in 2008, we need to get in the habit of anticipating their arrival [anyone care to join me once a week at 7 AM?!]. Not only at our daycare and church school, but at our Community Lunches [a.k.a. Friendship Dinners], fellowship meals [a.k.a. "potlucks"], and socials [a.k.a. Evangelistic Parties]. Why? Because we invited them!!! Some of their children are even participating in the programs! So when they arrive, we need to be prepared to love them! Here's a list of our winter ordinary outreach activities THEY have been/will be invited to in the next few months.



- HeartSong Community Lunch [Honoring Firemen/women] February 2 @ 1 PM [free]
- HeartSong Community Sing February 2 @ 2:30 PM [free]
- Super Bowl Party February 3 @ 6 PM [free]
- Valentines For Rwanda February 16 @ 7 PM [cost: \$10/person. All money raised provides clean drinking water for children in Rwanda. Organized by Women's Ministries and Youth Operate of Toledo First]
- HeartSong Community Lunch [Honoring Policemen/women] March 1 @ 1 PM [free]

*(Continued on next page)*

*Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not. — C. S. Lewis*

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## In gratitude of God's love

Dear God,  
Jesus taught us the depth of your love, a love that he demonstrated:

- A love that accepts others, all others, not just some;
  - A love that respects others, all others, not just some;
  - A love that helps others, all others, not just some;
  - A love that forgives others, not just some.
- Thank you, God,  
For letting us see love in action,

Feel the presence of love in the depths of our being,  
Experience love in real time,  
Hear love spoken in words that resonate sincerity  
And provide comfort, love being lived,  
Love at its lovingest, the Cross.  
Thank you, God, for Jesus, in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

—Dr. Mahlon Miller (from *The Newsletter Newsletter*) ##

### What's Cross-Promotional...? (Continued)

- HeartSong Community Sing March 1 @ 2:30 PM [free]
  - International Food Fair March 15 @ 7 PM [free]
- And here's what I want YOU to do for them while they're here:

- Smile, meet, and greet [introduce yourself!!!]
- Sit with/near guests. Not in Christian cliques
- Ask them about their children
- Thank them for sending their children to James Meade or Toledo Junior Academy
- Mingle afterward on their way out [the MOST important part!!!]
- Invite them to our next "thing." —Pastor Mike ##

### Road Trip to Tiffin

Agape invites you to learn everything you wanted to know about glass (but didn't know how to ask). Sharon Crosby has planned a trip to Tiffin Glass Museum on

Tues., February 12. During the crystal glass tour (free & handicap accessible) you will see how beautiful pieces of glass are made. Lunch at Pioneer Mill Buffet. Sign up at the bulletin board or call 419.882.6200 and we'll sign you up—then meet at the church at 9 AM on Feb. 12. —DeLaura Caulder ##

### Did you know?

There is help from the state for people who are burdened by their home mortgages and the possibility of foreclosure.

For a list of housing counselors in your area, go to [www.OhioTreasurer.gov](http://www.OhioTreasurer.gov) and click on the Foreclosure Help button. For a statewide refinancing program, called Opportunity Loan Refinance Program, go to <http://www.ohiohome.org/refinance/default.htm>.

There may also be help from the federal government with refinancing or freezing adjustable rate mortgages for five years. Call the national NeighborWorks hotline at 1.888.995.HOPE to find out if these options will work for you. (Source: letter from Paul Cordray, Ohio Treasurer.) ##



### We welcome fire fighters to lunch

We will have our first HeartSong Community Lunch on Sabbath, February 2, to which we are inviting our area firemen and women.

Our community lunches replace our former Friendship Lunches—planned meals by groups in our church—with the difference that everyone is invited to these meals. So come, and help honor our fire fighters. ##



### Love is theme

Residents, families and staff of area nursing homes are invited to HeartSong Community Sing—along with the rest of our community. It's at 2:30 PM, Saturday, February 2. You may have seen our ad in the Sylvania Herald for both the HeartSong Community Lunch and HeartSong

Community Sing. Be sure to be on hand to welcome our guests to our church. (See Pastor Mike's front page article to know what to do!) ##



### Bring friends, too

Our Super Bowl Party kicks off at 6 PM on Sunday, February 3. Come and bring your friends to see THE game on the big screen. It's all free including some great snacks and drinks. Munch your way to the final score!

(One note: Christ the Word congregation will be in our sanctuary that night listening to a missionary. Please respect their need for quiet in that space.) ##



"I still love my enemy, but he's pushing his luck."

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## Delivering Angel Food to needy families

Here are Hal and Cathy Rumsey (each end of the pics above) along with the driver, Pastor Mike, Nestor Alvarez (back of bus) and the youth

in the Better Bus for Us. Ten needy families were the recipients of the boxes of food (and gifts for each child in the family) which filled the

aisles of the bus. We received names of families from the Salvation Army's Christmas Clearing Bureau. A letter from Marla Conkin of the

SA expressed their thanks to us for helping to make Christmas brighter for these parents and children.— DeLaura Caulder ##

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 2

*HeartSong  
Community Lunch &  
Sing*

FEB 3

Super Bowl  
Party

FEB 16

*Valentines for  
Rwanda*

FEB 25

Business  
Meeting

### What else can we do this winter?



Don't forget these weekly simple but significant ways for you to spend your wintery Sabbath afternoons showing people that God loves them like crazy.

**Webkinz Giveaways—** Each week after church, one team of six healthy people [no flu like or cold symptoms allowed] give away connection cards and Webkinz stuffed animals to kids with cancer in the hospital.

**Nursing Home Ministry—** Each week after church [except the first Saturday of the month], smile, meet, and greet nursing home residents and staff in their nursing home, inviting them to our next HeartSong Community Sing. — Pastor Mike ##

### What's Rwanda Clean Water?

It's a project to provide money to the people of Rwanda to build wells so more people will have access to clean water, thus cutting back on disease and death in this African country.

To help, and have a nice evening out, plan to come to "Valentines for Rwanda" banquet on Feb. 17, 7 PM at Toledo First. There will be seating for 100, so reserve early by calling 419.882.6200. Cost is \$10/

person. ##

### Order fruit

Our school has one more fruit delivery this school year.

Deadline for ordering is Feb. 15. Pick up is March 2. Order Grapefruit or Navels (whole case \$24/half \$13); Temples or Tangerines (1/2 case \$24) by calling 419.841.0082 or send your check to Toledo Junior Academy, 4909 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH 43623. ##