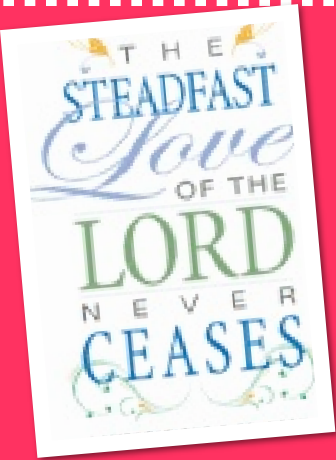


FEBRUARY 2007 EDITION

the

FOCAL Point

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



If you neglect your love to your neighbor, in vain you profess your love to God; for by your love to God the love to your neighbor is begotten, and by the love to your neighbor, your love to God is nourished.

—Quarles



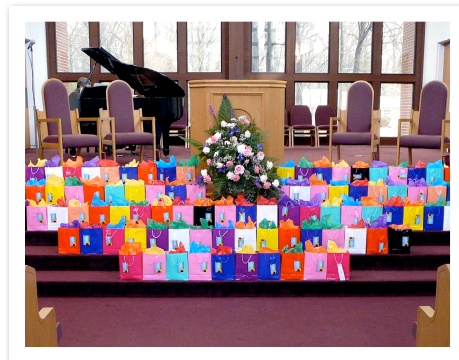
✧ Ordinary Outreach Begins ✧

Kindness 2 Go Bags lined the sanctuary steps on January 6th, and were delivered to friends, neighbors, and 'the man on the street' during the days that followed.

ANYONE CAN BRIGHTEN A DAY

Pastor Fortune began his ministry in Toledo by being “blessed” by church members at the invitation of Marwood Hallett who introduced him on January 6th. The church service concluded with Pastor Fortune’s invitation to the congregation to come forward, take a bag, and be a blessing to someone else. The bag could be given to anyone we chose—friend or

stranger, with words like “God loves you and so do we” or “I want to give you this to brighten your day.” The bags contain wonderful things like Famous Amos cookies, and ordinary items like a pencil, eraser, rubber band, toothpick, bandaid—each one with a scripture and explained on an included sheet. K2G bags are planned as a monthly outreach. Come Feb. 3rd and reach out! ##



What you will find in this newsletter

- Newest Member (pic at right)
- International Food Fest
- Super Bowl Party
- Email Prayer Requests

- Thank You Letter
- Seen our Website?
- A Word from our pastor
- Welcome Social

We thank Jeff Batchelder for the photos throughout this newsletter.





We welcome our newest member

On January 6th, we were pleased to welcome our newest member, Ruth Sackett (age 95) from North Carolina, grandmother of Judy Riley. She was

welcomed by Pastor Mike Fortune and hospitality leader, Donna Schuster, and by her great, great grandson, Wil, who presented her with a rose. ##

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2007

MAY 12
Mother's Day Tea

JUNE 10-16
Ohio Camp Meeting

JUNE 28-JULY 1
Friendship Getaway
@ Maumee Bay

AUGUST 25
Area Camp Meeting
@ Toledo First

SEPT 14 -29
(FRI & SAT ONLY)
Evangelism

Experience the International Food Fest

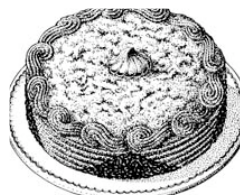
Come and have supper at church on February 17, 7:00 PM and enjoy one of our best socials of the year!

Our church family is blessed to have many nationalities. To celebrate the rich culture of those lands, and to give opportunity to



get a "taste" of other countries, we hold an annual food festival. The proceeds go to our hospitality baskets, which we give to new members by transfer.

This year the countries represented are: Philippines, Italy, Japan,



Hungary, USA, France, Lebanon, Indonesia, and more! You can purchase vegetarian soup, entrees, side dishes, desserts and drinks. There may even be some non-food items! Come and see. You will be glad you did! ##

Bring your friends to the Super Bowl

Enjoy the BIG game with church family and friends starting at 6:00 PM

on Sunday, February 4th. Invite your friends and bring them with you to cheer on your team. There will be snacks, pizza and drink for all. ##

Prayer requests to be emailed, too

If you would like to join the prayer chain (or are already on it) and be contacted by email, you may do so by calling Sharon Crosby at 419.874.4046, or email her at crosone@aol.com, Deadline is February 10. ##

Bell Choir is recruiting

Anyone in grades 4 - 12 is eligible for Bell Choir. Call Bill or Janell Ashley, 419.824.8285. ##

Thank You Letter from India

This letter was written to our treasurer, Marilyn Marsh, by Marcelline Dass, who is dedicated to helping children in her part of India to learn and to enjoy a better life. Some of our members contributed to her efforts and you can, too, by marking your tithe envelope "India children - Dass." —Editors

Have you visited our New Website?

If you're reading this on your computer, you have found the website! But if you're holding this newsletter in your hand, may I invite you to visit toledofirstadventist.org? You'll find a lot of great information there including a calendar of events, Pastor Mike's sermons, encouraging words, and much more.



Many thanks to Shawn Flack (above, with Mindy) for all of his work on getting it up and running. The NAD provides these websites to churches in North America. Each church can personalize its site. ##

Dear Marilyn,

Many thanks for the check. Please thank the church on my behalf. I was so touched to receive the money. When I come in the summer I will share stories. Right now I am helping 3 children—2 girls and a boy. One is a Muslim girl who is in the 11th grade and who has been kind of disowned by her family because she be-

Open Letter

Dear Toledo First Family,

Jackie, Joshua, Lydia and I just wanted to thank you for your warm welcome. We've met many of you already, but are looking forward to meeting the rest of you! And when we do, we're going to ask you to wear a name tag. Every week. Long after I already know your name. Why? Because if we're going to become a family of families that welcome first time guests as well as already precious members, we're gonna need to know our names and theirs!

I'd rather be dorky than unfriendly what about you? This simple thing will also give our greeters and hospitality teams a good excuse to slap a name tag on guests so we can get to know them right away. And invite them to fellowship lunch. Or our next outreach. I'll be wearing one too. And while I answer to many things

believes in "Jesus Pappa." She was 10 years old when an older family member abused her. At school she had heard of Jesus who cares. So she would tell Jesus Pappa all her heart aches. Another girl who would be used as a beast of burden to help with the stepmother's demands, now has a chance to be independent. A ten-year old boy so poor, but

[Pastor Fortune, Hey You!], "Pastor Mike" is what I'm used to and prefer.

Last night, at our first church business meeting, I explained why I think it's important for us to create a Cycle of Outreach. So like the boy Jesus, we can be about our Father's business [Luke 2:49]. Which according to John 3:16 is all about seeking and saving a lost world that God loves like crazy. And while I don't want to force anyone to do anything, one thing we can be sure of is this: The harvest is already ripe! Long before we do a single thing! The Lord of the Harvest told His disciples in John 4:35 [NIV] "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

So together, let's pray and plan some Ordinary Outreach and Extra

who is smart, now has an opportunity for learning about Jesus. So thank you for helping and God bless in Christ. —Marcelline Dass, LEARN Society of Roorkee Adventist College, Roorkee, India (*LEARN: Lovingly Educate All Rejected Needy*) ##



Ordinary Invitations together. Some of them can be personal and small. But some of them must be public and God sized big. Because the harvest is already ripe. And we serve a really big God. Who would rather die than spend eternity without all of His children.

Please join us for any of our evangelistic worship services [11:00AM; 5:00PM Saturdays; 7:00PM Wednesdays]. Plan to attend our monthly Business Meetings the last Monday of each month. Together we can tell the truth as it is in Jesus [Ephesians 4:15-21].

God bless you as you cheerfully serve in our Master's vineyard,
Pastor Mike.

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FOCAL *P o i n t*



Everyone is invited to the Welcome Social for Pastor Mike Fortune & family

Yes, we welcomed Pastor Fortune and his family to our church on January 6th.

And, we gave them our blessings and had a nice cake for them at lunch (Thanks, Jo Ann!).

Yes, we've been friendly so they will know we're so-o-o glad they're here. . . but what is it that's missing?

Oh, yeah—the **Toledo First Welcome Social**.

We haven't forgotten!

Will you help? To make it a success, we need you to come. Consider this your invitation! It's Saturday, February 10, 6:30 PM. Come for supper. We're having a soup-bread-dessert supper. If you can, bring a dessert. If you can't, come anyway.

The evening will be filled with music (remember the Buckeyes from Toledo

and Kurt Schuster's original songs? — well, there's more!) . . . maybe even "The Wheel of Fortune." Oh, we'll give gifts, door prizes, and we might even have a skit...and fortune cookies!

Do come. Let's raise the roof with our celebration, because—after a year, our new pastor is here! ##

This will be a better world when the power of love replaces the love of power.

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