

## Upcoming Events

### Meet Up Open Bible Study:

For study subject and location: see church website

### Thinking of Others

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*  
Philippians 2:3-4

*“No one is to seek his own advantage, but rather that of his neighbor.”* 1 Corinthians 10:24

### December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 27 Sue Tanner  
30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

### December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

# Indio Informer

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## Most Wonderful Time of the Year?

By Doug Dingley

It's the most wonderful time of the year... or so they tell us in song + cheer. But is it, really? Unfortunately for many, nothing could be further from the truth. For children and students whose only hot, healthy, and nutritious meals come about largely as the result of being in school, the two-week holiday break can be a very long, very lonely, and very cold and hungry time of year. For those who have lost loved ones in years past both during and around the holiday season, this can most certainly be the most terrible time of the year, as memories of better times return to flood, haunt, and wreak havoc on the hearts and minds of those left behind. For all of those, whom, due to either lack of health, lack of finances, or lack of ability or opportunity, simply cannot return back home for the holidays but desperately want and feel the need to, once again, it can be to them, the most lonely and miserable time of the year.

However, for those of us forgiven in Christ Jesus and thus members of His one New Testament church/body (Acts 2:37-47; Ephesians 4:4-6), we are, by far, the most significantly and infinitely blessed people on the planet. As such, we should not only be continually counting our blessings during this holiday season just the same as every other day and time of the year, but as God's people we should also be making a special effort to seek to recognize, identify, and share our God-given blessings with those to whom this time of the year is by far the least wonderful. We need to be looking for opportunities to lovingly give them the gift of our time, a listening ear, and a supportive spirit, as well as an encouraging and compassionate shoulder to cry on when called for

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
(Vacant)

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

– all in addition to trying to take care of whatever legitimate physical needs we possibly can.

But by far the greatest and most important gift we can and are commanded to give them at the same time, is the same gift that we should and must be sharing with all of the lost, broken, and sin-sick souls all around us on an everyday basis – at each and every opportunity presented: the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23; See also: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). You see, if we can just get them into Christ Jesus where every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places is located, they will not only have a vastly superior heavenly inheritance (Ephesians 1:3-14), but will also become an instantly and infinitely blessed, valued, treasured and beloved member of the family of God as well (Galatians 3:26-27); the family of God which takes care of its own (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Galatians 6:10), and has learned the secret of being content in all circumstances (Philippians 4:10-13); the family of God that follows in the footsteps of Jesus and therefore loves and helps bear one another's burdens in all situations (Romans 12:4-16; Galatians 5:13-14, 6:2).

This holiday season go out and make it the most wonderful time of the year for someone whom it would otherwise not be. Give them the precious gift of ourselves, our time, our interest, our love and compassion. And then, give them by far the most priceless and wonderful gift of all – the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord as we teach them the gospel. Help make their most wonderful time of the year from now on, the 52 Sundays of each year that they will get to celebrate that gift in a most special way. Because after we have been a tool in God's hand to help fill the emptiness of their bellies, hearts, lives, and souls, the only thing they ever ought to continually have to hunger and thirst for after that, is more and more of God's righteousness... which He Himself has promised to fill such sincerely seeking people with (Matthew 5:6). God bless!

## **New Year's Resolutions**

By Aaron Veyon

***“I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your laws”*** (Psalm 119:30).

The term “resolution” (as we often think of it) basically means “firm determination to take a course of action.” With each new year people all around the nation make their new year's resolutions. With some it is to quit smoking; with others its to go on a diet or to get more exercise (etc.). Though intentions are usually very good, for many it seems that their determination loses steam in just a short while.

The same kind of frustration can be seen in our spiritual lives. It's not good enough to just talk the talk, we must also walk the walk. There is little good in making noble plans if we will not put those plans into action and see them through.

God (our most perfect example) says of Himself, “...*Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it*” (Isaiah 46:11). Let me encourage you to follow God's example. And let us not only resolve to do the Lord's will, let us actually do it.

### **Don't judge others before you know them**

“A 24-year old boy seeing out from the train's window shouted... ‘Dad, look the trees are going behind!’ Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24-year old's childish behavior with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed... ‘Dad, look the clouds are running with us!’

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man... ‘Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?’ The old man smiled and said... ‘I did, and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today.’

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before we truly know them. The truth might surprise us.”