

Mark Your Calendars

Come join us for Study & Worship Saturday mornings at 10 a.m., Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and for the following:

Jan 25 – 8:00 pm – Church Board Meeting

Jan 27 – Fri – 6:00 pm – Young Adult Home Vespers

Jan 27 – Fri – 7:00 pm - Agape Feast, hosted by: Health Committee

Jan 28 – Sat – Communion Sabbath

Jan 28 – Sat – 1:00 pm - Mini Potluck: Health Committee

Feb 4 – Sat – 4:00 pm – Healthy Living Seminar and Supper (Health Min)

Feb 5 – Sun – 8:00 am – Work Bee – Deacons and Whole Church Family

Feb 11 – Sabbath – Hat Day / Bow Tie Day– Women's Ministry

Feb 11 - Valentine's Potluck – Soc Comm (Fellowship Potluck – Deaconesses)

Feb 15 – 8:00 pm – Church Board Meeting

Feb 17-20 (Fri – Mon) – Young Adult Spiritual Revival Retreat: Grand Canyon

Feb 24 – Fri – 6:00 pm – Young Adult Home Vespers

Feb 25 – Sat – 1:00 pm – Mini Potluck: Sabbath School Council

Mar 11 – 1:00 pm – Fellowship Potluck - Deaconesses

Mar 11 – Sat – 7:00 pm – Social night – Social Comm

Mar 12 – Sun – 8:00 am – Work Bee – Deacons and Whole Church Family

Mar 12 – Sun – 9:00 am – Yard Sale (coord by Community Services)

January 2017

Coming Up!

Calling all board members! **Board Meetings** will be on Wednesdays January 25th and February 15th beginning at 8:00 p.m. “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14



Friday, January 27th will be a new event this year: **Young Adult Home Vespers**. Arrive at the specified location at 6:00 p.m.

The Bible is full of feasts instituted by God. Feasts were a reminder of faith and the expression of fellowship with God and man. Friday, January 27th our church will follow this example. The **Agape Feast** will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Communion Sabbath will be held January 28th during the worship hour. If you are involved with this sacred service please communicate with Pastor Mataafa for more information.

Health ministries is helping with our New Year resolutions by hosting a **Healthy Living Seminar and Supper** on Sabbath, February 4th beginning at 4:00 p.m.



Bring your hard hat and a willing heart to the next **Work Bee** on Sunday, February 5th. Maintaining our facility is an act of worship!

Women's Ministries is encouraging you to wear your best **Hat** and/or **Bow Tie** for Sabbath, February 11th.



JESUS L O V E S YOU

Valentine's Potluck will be following church services on February 11th. Come celebrate the love God has for us and the love He has given us for others.

Young Adult Spiritual Revival Retreat to the Grand Canyon February 17-20. Locate a Young Adult leader for more information.



Group Walk at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve



An intrepid group from the Colton church gathered for a nature hike on Sabbath afternoon, October 29, 2016, at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. The Preserve is located about an hour east of Colton, in a natural oasis between the San Bernardino Mountains and the Little San Bernardino Mountains, north of Palm Springs. The group took a slow and leisurely hike lasting about an hour through the preserve's varied ecosystems, including a network of boardwalks over a marshy area. There was even some evidence of fall foliage amidst the desert flora. After the walk, one of the participating families graciously opened their home for the group to gather for an impromptu Sabbath evening dinner and dessert.

Jerry Johnson

Thanksgiving Luncheon





Thanksgiving. That time of year in which we consciously stop for a moment and reflect on what we are grateful for. What better time to honor Pastor and Mrs. Bell? A large group of Colton members came to the Delhi Palace (which had wonderfully delicious food) to surprise the Bell's with a nice plaque (pictured, above right). Many of those present shared stories of their interactions with this great couple. There were laughs, there were tears. There was also

some great food. Did I mention that the food was good? We all got to experience the cuisine from a different culture (something my kids have not had before; Indian food). A perfect venue to share the company of our extended family, the family of God.

To Pastor and Mrs. Bell: the church would not be the same without your Godly examples of Christian living.

Rob Cruise



Christmas Party



A favorite annual tradition of the Colton Seventh-day Adventist Church, the church's Christmas Party took place on Saturday evening, December 10, 2016, in the Fellowship Hall. Along with holiday music, festive decorations, warm interactions with friends, and the delicious and varied potluck dishes coordinated by the Social Activities Committee, the attendees also reveled in the much-cherished and spirited "White Elephant" gift exchange. There were also games and small gifts for children.

Jerry Johnson

Riverside Concert Band



Continuing more than a decade-long tradition, the Riverside Concert Band presented a Christmas concert at the Colton church on Saturday evening, December 17, 2016. Playing nine separate medleys or individual pieces, the band performed a mix of sacred and secular Christmas tunes, covering more than 30 different holiday songs. The repertoire ranged from LeRoy Anderson's ever-popular "Sleigh Ride", to the frenetic "Scherzo for Santa", to the meditative "Greensleeves". Afterward, musicians and attendees joined together in the Fellowship Hall for a reception potluck coordinated by the Social Activities Committee.

Jerry Johnson

Thanksgiving Potluck



The annual Thanksgiving Potluck was hosted by the Social Activities Committee, with support from the Deaconesses, on Sabbath afternoon, November 19, 2016, immediately following the Worship Service. Seasonal decorations combined with the traditional vegetarian Thanksgiving cuisine to foster a spirit of gratitude and togetherness for the attendees in the Fellowship Hall.

Jerry Johnson



Inspiration

In the 1960's and 1970's it was normal, or at least not unusual for young people to need to "find themselves." Why? How do you find yourself? I mean how can you lose yourself? It's you. You're you. Obviously it was more about who they were. They needed to find their identity. By knowing their identity it was easier to figure out where they were going. Many of these people found themselves by backpacking across Europe, or getting back to nature or unfortunately some by taking drugs to "find a higher plane."

There is something important about knowing where you come from, who you are and where you are going. Why? Because the answers to these questions give us value and direction.

What does the Bible say about where you and I came from? Palm 139:13-16 says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Genesis chapters 1-2 tell us God created the world and placed people in it. It's pretty clear. We didn't evolve from primordial slime. We were created, that's where we came from

Who are you? You were created in God's image (Genesis 1:26, 27) The Apostle Luke (Luke 3:23-38) follows the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Adam who was "the Son of God." You are God's child.

Where are you going? John 14:2-3 promises, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." Where is Jesus now? He answered that question Himself in Luke 22:69, "But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." Much of Isaiah and Revelation discuss and describe heaven and the new earth. So if you choose to, you're going to a perfect paradise, heaven, to live with the One who loves you most, Jesus.

This is all very nice, but what does that mean for you and me today? How does it make a difference to know God created you. To know you are God's child. And to know you're heading for heaven? The answers to these questions made a difference for Jesus. John 13:3 says, "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God..." This verse answers where Jesus came from, who He was and where He was going.

Jesus knew He was the Son of God. He knew where He came from: from God the Father and heaven. And He knew where He was going: back to the Father, back to heaven. This identity and purpose made John 13:4-5 possible. "...So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his



waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

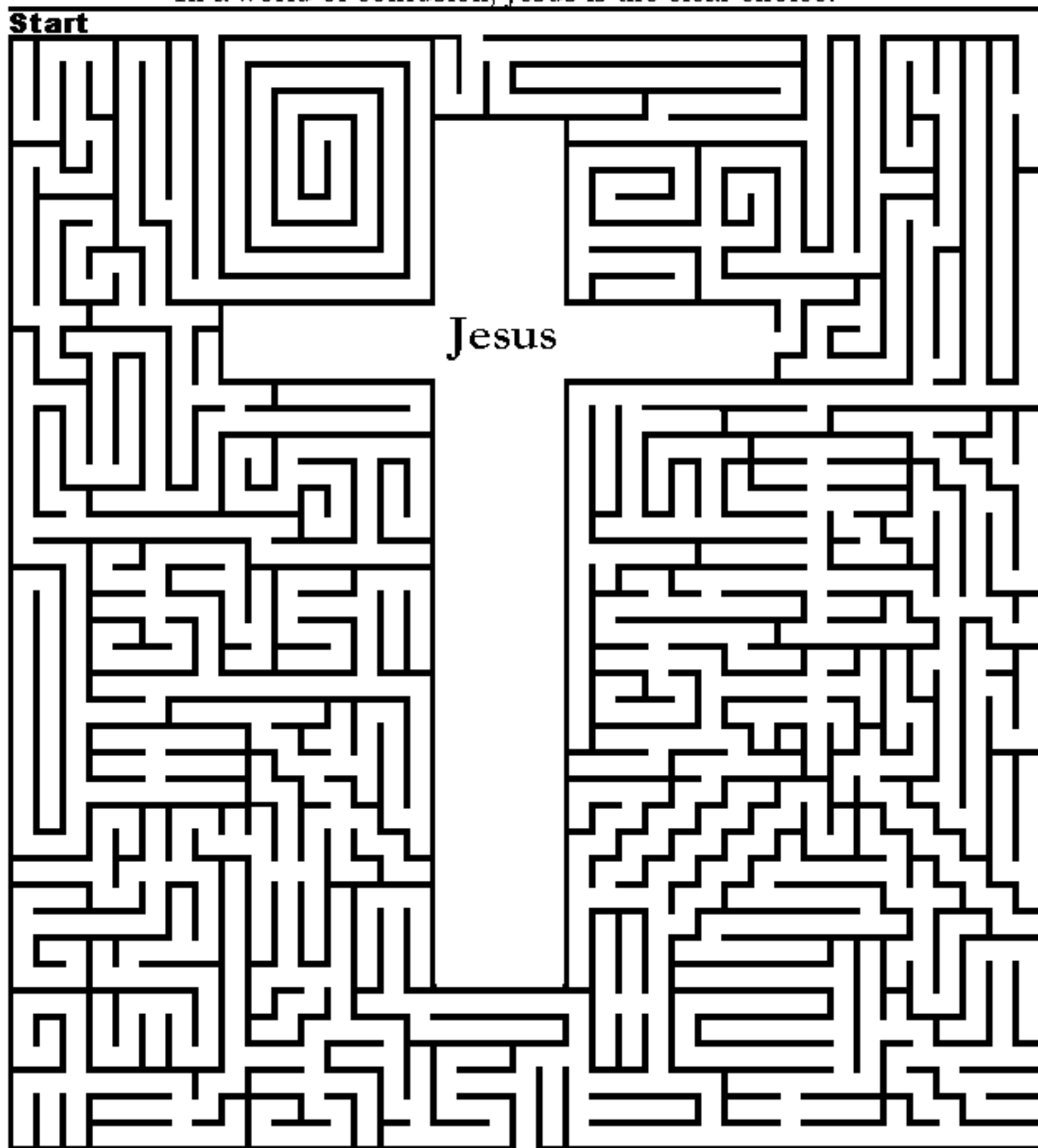
Because Jesus knew where He came from, who He was, and where He was headed He was able to serve His disciples and ultimately the world in the most profound way. He gave His divine life so we can have the same future He looked forward to, heaven. His service, ultimate service, on the cross allows us to more fully know where we came from, who we are and where we are going. For what purpose? Jesus says in John 13:15, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Meaning we know our identity which allows us to humbly serve others as He served others. No job, no task, no other person can diminish where we came from, we were created by God, to be His children and to live forever in perfect peace and harmony with Jesus forever. It makes all our service holy and no task, no matter how humble can diminish who we are in Christ Jesus our Lord. With God you are never lost and you always have a purpose. So, go and do...

Kristi Cruise

Activity Page

In a world of confusion, Jesus is the clear choice.

Start



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My Father's Amazing World - Venom Part 1

When the word venom is used, most people think of snakes. (Brace yourselves we will cover a few slithery snakes too.) But there are many other types of venomous creatures roaming the earth. One is so common that most people wouldn't even think of it. This creature is so dangerous that you could die in minutes if you are allergic to it. Before you think this creature doesn't live here in California, think again. What is this creature? The common every day honey bee is our creature of the month.

Honey bees may be common but they are not ordinary. Honey bees live in colonies and have a complex communication style. Every bee, like ants, have a special job to accomplish. Worker bees collect nectar from flowers and bring it back to the hive, where another bee's job is to change the nectar to honey. Nurse bees care for the next generation of bees-larvae. The real question is why do people put up with this venomous flying insect? Historically people have tried to eradicate venomous animals. Why not this one? The honey you say, of course. And there is no doubt that humans appreciate honey. Not only does it taste terrific, but honey contains antibacterial properties. Bacteria can not grow in honey.

Honey has been used on open wounds to prevent infections. Honey has been used for sore throats and coughs for generations. But honey is not why we keep bees around.

Perhaps we keep them simply because there are so many we can't kill them off. If so, good! Without bees our world would be vastly different. Our world would be a hungry one. Without bees to pollinate our food there would be very little food left. Every fruit you have ever eaten had to be pollinated. Wikipedia says, "The value of these pollination services is commonly measured in the billions of dollars. Bees collect 66 pounds of pollen per year, per hive." We take the work of bees for granted most of the time, but there is a community in China that doesn't. "The most dramatic example comes from the apple and pear orchards of south west China, where wild bees have been eradicated by excessive pesticide use and a lack of natural habitat. In recent years, farmers have been forced to hand-pollinate their trees, carrying pots of pollen and paintbrushes with which to individually pollinate every flower, and using their children to climb up to the highest blossoms. This is clearly just possible for this high-value crop, but there are not

enough humans in the world to pollinate all of our crops by hand." from www.chinadialogue.net. There are steps being taken to try to keep this problem from developing in other locations.

Pesticides may be the cause of CCD (colony collapse disorder). CCD is when a whole bee colony or hive dies over night. In 2007 30-70% of domestic hives in North America died due to this disorder. Farmers and scientist alike are working hard to determine the causes of CCD.

But don't despair the Bible promises, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22 (NIV) "They (righteous) are the ones who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar." Isaiah 33:16-17 (NIV) In the mean time, plant some flowers, leave the pesticides alone and don't bother those busy little bees.

Kristi Cruise assisted by JayJay and Gigi Cruise

Distribution Dates

The Newsletter will be published on the dates below.

February 25

March 18

April 29

May 27

June 24

August 19

September 30

October 28

November 18

December 30

If you would like to contribute please submit at least 10 days in advance of distribution date. Please send via e-mail at jrklljcruise@sbcglobal.net.