

The Nutshell

The Weekly World of New Life 01/03/09

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Now what? How about joining a New Life small group! Make those New Year's resolutions a reality! Connect with God, develop relationships with others, and become more familiar with the Bible. New Life's... LIFE Groups. 2010 LIFE Group sign-ups starting this week in the lobby. New LIFE Groups launch the week of January 17th!

DON'T MISS OUT!

We want to make sure you join in on the Spiritual Journey this January, so make sure to grab this week's handout on your way out of the auditorium this morning so that you can participate this week!

NEW LIFE CLOSED

New Life's offices are closed tomorrow in observance of the New Year's Holiday. We'll be back in action come Tuesday! Happy New Year!

NEW TO NEW LIFE?

Pastor Casey Scott is the Outreach Minister at a church in Lexington, Kentucky & recently wrote an article for his local newspaper that we found interesting & thought those of you looking for a church home might find useful as well! As you take stock of what you find at New Life,

we want to encourage you to consider the 4 hints Pastor Casey makes. The truth is that we'd love to have you make your 'home' at New Life, but as long you get connected *somewhere* that you experience God - that's even MORE our heart's desire for you. So whether it's New Life you're considering or any other local church, Mr. Scott encourages you look at the following:

1. Integrity matters! Find a church that practices what it preaches. The biggest criticism thrown against Christians today is that we are hypocrites. It IS true that when the standard you measure your life against is someone who was perfect (Jesus), the drift toward hypocrisy will be a constant battle. But let's face it - other than Jesus, no one (Christian or otherwise) is perfectly consistent all the time. The key is to find a church whose members are known for the integration of their beliefs with their actions. We must remember that there is a tension here that needs to be kept. Stay away from any church whose members claim to be perfect, just as you should stay away from a church where people's lives are not regularly being changed by the power of Jesus Christ.

2. Doctrine matters! What

the leadership of a church believes will determine what kind of church they are. Read their literature (which, at New Life, can be found at our Info Table in the lobby) and/or website (www.NewLifePetaluma.org), set up an appointment with one of the pastors (mark on your Communication Card this morning or call 765.0956) & ask your questions!

3. Friendliness matters! You want to look for a church that is full of people that you'd like to get to know! When you first get there, be looking for people that will show you where to go, help you find a seat, and introduce you to a couple of people around you. If in a couple weeks, no one has made any effort to become your friend, move on.

4. Fit matters! Churches are like blue jeans. Some fit some kinds of people, others don't. You have to find the kind that fits you. So keep looking until you find it!

At New Life, we are more interested in you finding the *right* fit than in you forcing yourself to fit in here. We are in partnership with many local churches that we would happily recommend based on the criteria you're looking for in your future spiritual environment. We welcome the opportunity to partner with you on your

spiritual journey - through your involvement here at New Life or through assisting you in plugging in elsewhere... God bless you in your search!

day event, leaving Petaluma at 7am, returning that evening by 6:30pm. Please call Pastor Bob at the church office if you would like to join us 765.0956.

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

"Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble... A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." (Ecc. 4:9-12) Feeling vulnerable ... disconnected ... alone? Are you longing to walk in partnership with others? Someone watching your back? New Life's small groups may be the very thing you're looking for! New Life's... LIFE Groups. LIFE Group sign-ups start this week for all kinds of new groups beginning the week of January 17th!

LIKE TO LEARN?

Great opportunity...lots of fun...awesome fellowship... phenomenal insights! Are you interested in receiving training to be a small group leader? A number of people from New Life will be attending the 2010 "Synergy!" small group training and you are welcome to join us! The training will be held March 6th in Manteca. The instructor will be Willow Creek's very own Small Groups Pastor, Bill Donahue. Check out the topics & schedule for yourself at www.synergylive.org. The cost is \$49 per person. The price includes lunch & transportation. There are a limited number of partial scholarships available. Please do not let the cost of the conference keep you from attending. This will be an all-

FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES

Have you ever wondered how the women of the New Testament reacted to life's challenges? They were not all strong in their faith - like Elizabeth, Mary and others. Some of them had made wrong choices and had to live with the consequences. We, typically, fall somewhere in the middle, but looking at their stories allows us to learn from their mistakes & successes. Our Wednesday morning woman's LIFE Group resumes the study of Women of the Bible looking at the New Testament women this time, beginning January 13th! If you'd like to join in, we'd love to have you! Please contact Olga @ 763.2584 or olgafriesen@att.net for a book and details of location and time, etc.

THANK YOU!

Thank you, everyone, for supporting Boy Scouts Troop 2 with your Christmas tree purchases. We had a great year this Holiday Season and our scouts will be enjoying various outings this coming year including the some of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America celebration 1910-2010. Thank you again and we look forward to serving you next year!

MARY REMEMBERED

New Lifers, Keith & Meg Runge & family, would like to invite you to celebrate the life of Mary Runge at her Memorial Service here at New Life on January 9, at 1 PM. Reception to follow. If you would like to

bring an appetizer or dessert to share, that would be appreciated. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Hospice of Petaluma or to New Life Christian Fellowship. For more info, please call Keith or Meg at 778.6709.

IN KIDS LIFE (0-5yrs)

Even though Jesus is God's son, while He was on Earth, He was a boy...a child, just like you!! Today we're telling the story of Jesus getting lost in the Temple (found in Luke 2:39-52). Our memory verse this month is, 'Jesus grew & became strong.' Luke 2:40

OVERFLOW (Jr. High)

After a few weeks away from each other on Wednesday nights, it's time to get back together. This week we're taking it back to the beginning and starting a new series on the book of Genesis. If you've never made it out to OVERFLOW, the new year would be a great time to get involved. We look forward to seeing you Wednesday at 7 right here at New Life.

Ignite (Sr. High)

We hope you've had a great few weeks traveling or having some down time with family and friends. It's time to get back together to start the new year off right. We're gathering back together this Tuesday at 7pm right here at New Life for our weekly Ignite gathering. See you there! If you've got questions, call Pastor Kevin at 765.0956 ext. 25