



Featured Event:

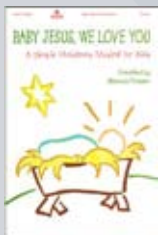


**New Year's Eve
Candlelight Service
December 31 at 7PM**



**Milele at Amplify
November 30 at 9:00AM**

Milele has traveled extensively and succeeded in becoming well known musical ambassadors in Kenya as well as Christian circles in the US. What began as a celebration of God through music became using music as a vehicle to carry out work that would move and spread the love of God.



**"Baby Jesus,
We Love You"
Children's
Musical**

**December 14th
9AM Service**



**"An
Unexpected
Christmas"
December 14th
10:30AM & 6PM
Services**



The Christmas Envelope

Nancy Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas—oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it—overspending, the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma—the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing that he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son, Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, the kind of light helmet designed to protect the wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly. "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

Mike loved kids—all kids—and he knew them, having coached youth league football, baseball, and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year, and in succeeding years.

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UPCOMING MESSAGES

December 7: "How to Have the Best Christmas Ever"
December 14: Christmas Cantata - "An Unexpected Christmas"
December 21: "Christmas Coming In"
December 28: "Closing The Book On 2008"



Crossfire Youth Ministries would like to first thank you for all of your prayers and support throughout this entire year. I especially would like to thank everyone who contributed to helping send several students to Youth Convention this year.

We as a group look forward to the new things that are coming in this new year. Please keep our students in your thoughts and prayers. Once again thank you for all that you do to help our students grow in God.

From Crossfire Youth Ministries to all of you at Orange Hills: Happy Christmas & Merry New Year!!!

The Royal Rangers



What a year we have had in Royal Rangers! It seems like just yesterday we had started 2008 and we were preparing for what lied ahead; and here it is December, and we're doing it all over again. Our 2009 is already shaping up to be great, filled with lots of great opportunities for

our boys to grow in Christ!

Royal Rangers has recently been blessed by the addition of a new commander: Dave Laviguer. Dave has several years experience in different aspects of Children's Ministries, and has already made an impact in the lives of our boys. We are truly blessed to have him with us.

We also would like to take this time to thank our church family for your support and prayers this year. We are so blessed to have a church that cares about every ministry, and we could not do it without your support. We are looking forward to the great year God has in store for us, and thank Him for the incredible year we have had!

Meet Chris Preszler



Chris is currently leading Crossfire Youth Ministries. He has a passion for youth; he loves taking Friday afternoons to just spend with students over coffee, food, or just hanging out. In addition to working with our teenagers here at Orange Hills, Chris is a student at Vanguard University of Southern California; where he is a Religion Major, with an emphasis in Pastoral Leadership.

Meet Bobby Laumea



Bobby leads the Worship for our Crossfire and Amplify Services. He is also serving on the worship team for our second service as well as the choir. Bobby is a student at

Vanguard University and is called to be a Music Minister. We are blessed to have him in our family!

Missionettes



How quickly the Christmas Season has arrived. Time to get the grandkids together to make our teddy bear cookies and decorate an ornament for this year's tree.

I love Missionettes at this time of year. You can actually feel the girls' excitement. Each club has a lesson that shares the birth of Christ. What a gift we have been given.

I pray that the Lord brings you Peace, Joy and Comfort this Christmas. God Bless.



Seniors Ministry

This month our Senior's meeting will be on The first Saturday of the month! With the holidays coming and hectic schedules, we are moving our monthly meeting to Saturday, December 6th at 11:30 AM. This meeting will be a great time of food, games, and Christmas songs. We are asking each person to bring a favorite side dish or dessert and we will provide the ham. We also want each person to bring a wrapped Christmas mug for our mug exchange. Please come and enjoy this fun time together!

The Christmas Envelope

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For each Christmas, I followed the tradition—one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check for a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, their toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost Mike last year to cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more.

Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown, and someday will expand even further, with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation, watching as their fathers take down the envelope.

Have a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Love You,

Pastor Ed

Children's Ministry



This month in KidZone the kids are learning the importance of keeping a good attitude. The first Bible story was about Jonah and how he wanted to do things his way, but he quickly learned by having a good attitude and obeying that things may have turned out better for him.

This Sunday @ 9:00AM, during the AMPLIFY service, KidZone will be blessed by "Milele," a group from Africa. You will truly be blessed by these men, so be sure to meet in the sanctuary for this concert of worship.

Coming in December, KidZone Kids Choir will be performing the musical "Baby Jesus We Love You." You won't want to miss this!

Please continue praying for our Children's Ministry that God will keep blessing each and every child and our staff.

Thank you to all who helped with this year's Thanksgiving Dinner. You are a Blessing!



Website
www.orangehills.net

Service Times
Sunday at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

2910 N. Santiago Blvd.
Orange, CA 92867
714.974.7333

Senior Pastor Ed Rutherford



Merry Christmas to all! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

I want to express my thanks to Marcia Brown and Lin Ward for sharing their testimonies with us last month. God certainly is amazing in how He cares for His children. Their testimonies helped reinforce how important it is to give thanks for all the blessings God provides us. I also want to recognize our special lady – Joan Shaver.

December's meeting has always been a great way to start the celebration of Christmas. We will be singing Christmas carols, exchange Christmas ornaments, have a few surprises, and, as always, enjoy good food prepared by you. If you have not yet made plans to attend our December 4th Christmas pot-luck, do so now! Space is still available. Bring your favorite main dish or dessert and a wrapped ornament ranging in price between \$5 - \$10.

Save the Date:

December 4: WM Christmas Celebration 6:30 PM
January 8: Box Dinner & Movie Night 6:30 PM



Men's Ministry

November was an outstanding men's breakfast meeting. The testimonies were great. Many were so blessed. The food was delicious and the fellowship excellent. We will not have a meeting in December, but will be back on schedule for January. Have a wonderful, love filled Christmas. We'll be looking for you next month.

Holiday Service Schedule:

Wednesday Services

Dec. 3rd, 10th, and Dec. 17th - 7PM Family Night

Dec. 24th- No Services

Dec. 31st- New Year's Eve Candlelight Service @ 7PM

Sunday Services

We will follow our regular service schedule (9AM, 10:30AM & 6PM) on all Sundays in December.