



# THE DOOR

Luke 13:24

The Newsletter of Darby Chapel

Volume I, Issue 4

11 December 2008

**Staff & POCs:**

- Chaplain (CPT) Kelly Porter
- SGT Tokovia Sanda
- Roberto Federighi (contract priest)
- Jessica Barlow (contract youth minister)
- Karen Pryor (contract Protestant Religious Education)

**Special points of interest:**

- Jessica is on leave through January 2009. Contact the chapel regarding Club Beyond activities.

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## *Getting Back to The Real Christmas*

Survived the onslaught of fake greenery, Santas hanging out of windows and overpriced yet cheaply made nativity sets? Better yet, has your wallet survived? In an era of sales marketing even the church can miss the mark when it comes to Christmas. Here's a simple test to know whether you have fallen prey. Ask yourself, "Have I ever felt pressure to buy someone a gift, or have I felt guilty because I didn't spend enough?"

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than receive," but in our warped way of celebrating His birth we've turned the one day into a season and turned a servant attitude into pangs of guilt-induced spending splurges. Modern Christians are as guilty as the rest. We've become retail bulimics with bouts of over-shopping followed by self-induced budget vomiting. One dictionary describes bulimia as being "associated with depression and anxiety about putting on weight." Sound like the typical month of December? It sure doesn't have to be, so say a group of pastors in America.

**Advent Conspiracy (AC)** was formed three years ago when pastors in Portland,

OR, Houston, TX and other key cities were tired of hearing and seeing the weak response to the world's taking over Christmas. In a December 7, 2008 Christian Today article Rick McKinley, pastor of Imago Dei Church, stated, "Christians have not effectively conveyed the message of Christmas to the public." He cited as an example Christian leaders who protest against retailers using the phrase, "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas." McKinley emphasized that retail management is not obligated to promote the gospel, the Church is so we shouldn't be surprised when they use such statements.

If Christians are to get upset about "Holiday" versus "Christmas" and then turn around and overspend like everyone else then what kind of message are we sending? In the end we are saying that purchasing is more important than Jesus and Jesus' message of servanthood is lost somewhere in the noise of our shouting about those arrgh Holiday Trees.

At the AC website, [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org), you will find a simple ap-

proach to Christmas, namely, to:

1. Worship Fully
2. Spend Less
3. Give More
4. Love All

Wow, how refreshing. AC emphasizes celebrating Christmas in a whole new way. Start with Jesus, worship Him. Then, look outward and see what you can do to help others. Start small. A lot of the people we buy for don't really need anything. This year, buy one less gift (or ornament or wreath or mass-produced resin Santa) than you had planned and then ask others in your family to do the same. Pool the money you would have spent and give it to a charity.

AC helps people funnel their giving to supply fresh water to African villages. AC estimates Americans spent \$450 billion on Christmas last year; making clean water available to everyone in the world would only cost \$10 billion.

If not this year then in the future, instead of giving presents at Christmas, give presence: to God and to your fellow man. †

## Baptism

Scout Maness was baptized last Sunday. Her parents are Frances and Matt. Pray for Scout as she grows in wisdom, stature and the fear of the Lord.

## Wait With Patience

Advent, as we have discovered, is a time of waiting. We wait for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. How easy is it, however, to get anxious for this coming, to begin celebrating early, and to forget about the true meaning of the season? The Catholic Church typically waits until the midnight mass on Christmas Eve to decorate. We wait to adorn the altar with poinsettias, garland, and candles. The baby Jesus is placed in the cradle on Christmas even and three Kings are brought out to the nativity on January 6th. We walk into midnight mass to a beautiful and

sacred scene. Our wait is over. Slowing putting out the decorations is done, in part, to remind us of how important this time of waiting is.

We have to remind ourselves to be patient, for the Lord will come, just as we should be patient in our own wait for the season to culminate. Using this patience, we can continue to prepare ourselves for this coming. The time in garnishing the church in holiday decor is also done to inspire and revitalize us. It is done, almost as if by miracle, to inspire us and remind us of God's glory. How

*by: Amber Gaglione*

great and beautiful our church looks, how amazing and precious is the gift God has given to us of his son.

During this week, take time to take a closer look at yourself. Examine what makes you weak, where you suffer, or what afflicts you. Ask the Lord to reveal to you what it is you need to release. Take time to share this desire with Him and wait in patience for his reply. Then, spend time in study and fellowship with the Lord, taking comfort in knowing that he will heal you.

## Holy Day Schedule

*Mass will be held at the following dates and times*

<b>3d Advent</b>	<b>Sunday, 14 December 2008</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>4th Advent</b>	<b>Sunday, 21 December 2008</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Christmas*</b>	<b>Thursday, 25 December 2008</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Octave of Christmas</b>	<b>Thursday, 01 January 2009</b>	<b>1000</b>

*\* Note: Darby Chapel is invited to attend midnight mass at Roberto Federighi's parish on 24 Dec. Service will be in both English and Italian.*

### Sunday

**07 December 2009**

Mass Attendance: 25

Regular Offering: \$48.35

Designated Offering: \$33

Club Beyond Service Project

*For more information about Catholic programs, to volunteer in the Catholic congregation or schedule the facilities please see Sheri Colegrove.*



**This Sunday: 14 December**

**Dec Worship Theme**                      *Advent: God's Christmas List*  
**Sermon**                                        *Jesus is the Everlasting Father*  
**Text**    *Isaiah 9.6*

**Sunday**  
**07 December 2008**  
 Worship Attendance: 45  
 Regular Offering: \$67.52  
 Designated Offering:  
    \$783.58  
 Club Beyond Service Project

Jesus has all the characteristics of God, including being our Everlasting Father. The one constant we have in life is this—Jesus was, is and will be the same. That's good news because he certainly qualifies as a great dad.

Children's church **DOES NOT** meet this Sunday. The children will sing in the service and will be followed by a children's sermon.

**Advent Services: 30 November - Christmas Eve**



**Advent Readings**

**14 Dec– Walker Family**

Advent Concludes with:  
 6:30 Dec 24      Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Sunday School**

The children will not meet for Sunday School this week in order to practice their songs for the service. **Parents**, please have your children present and ready to sing in Mertz Hall at 1000.

Sunday School resumes for the children on 21 December and will con-

tinue to meet in Mertz Hall at 1000. They are currently going through Bible Blitz and enjoying memorizing Bible verses.

**Christmas Eve Service**

A Candlelight Service is scheduled for 24 December from 6:00-7:00. Invite the community to this awesome event.



Club Beyond is an ecumenical Christian ministry reaching out to every military teen. Club Beyond is sponsored by military chaplains as a part of the overall Command Religious Program at a military installation.



### *What's Happening?*

**Middle School** Events while Jess is gone. Tracey Magowan is the POC at [mythreesons1970@yahoo.com](mailto:mythreesons1970@yahoo.com) or call the chapel if you need to phone her.

Monday Lunch: 15 Dec and 12, 26 Jan

Wed Club: 17 Dec and 14, 21 Jan

**No activities the week of 5-9 January 2009. This is the first week of school. Have a great New Years!**



### Volunteer Appreciation

Jessica departs for an extended leave thanking those who have helped with Club Beyond this year.

Photo: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

(left to right) Jessica Barlow, Andrew Maul, Stephanie Feagin, Jason Peay, Gary Magowan, Tracey Magowan, Frances Manness, Matt Manness

### Romania Service Project Update

Club Beyond Camp Darby is teaming with YouthCompass for the 2009 Spring Service Project. We will help to rebuild houses and roads in the town of Taut, Romania. You can reach me at [jessintuscany@yahoo.com](mailto:jessintuscany@yahoo.com).

Stephanie Feagin is the main High School POC at [stephanie.feagin@us.army.mil](mailto:stephanie.feagin@us.army.mil). Call the chapel at 633-7267 if you need to phone her. She will be in the USA from Dec 23-Jan 11. She will collect checks for the Service Project and I will equip her with Event Deposit Forms to send checks and deposit monies into MCYM. She will also assist with a fundraiser while I am gone in January. Students, I really need you to work on raising as much money as you can.



Thank you!

*Jessica*

MCYM/Club Beyond Contractor

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COM: 050-54-7261

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**2009 Service Project**  
**Taut, Romania**  
**10-19 April**

US ARMY  
GARRISON LIVORNO

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**Regular Activities**

- Mass 10:00
- Sunday School 10:00
- Prot Worship 11:15
- Women's Bible Study  
Tues 12:00-13:00  
Wed 17:30-18:30

THE DOOR and pictures  
from chapel events can be  
found on the web at [http://  
www.usag.livorno.army.mil  
/sites/RS.html](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil/sites/RS.html)



Club Beyond

Office: Bldg 301 (Chapel), 633-7261

## Chapel Wide Announcements

- **Night of Praise.** Next planning meeting 11:30-12:30, Thurs 08 Jan 09
- **Be a good steward.** Take care of the building by:
  - ⊖ Keeping windows and doors closed. Lower utility bills means more money for ministry.
  - ⊖ Ensuring your children are picking up the restrooms and Mertz Hall after use.
- **Men's Ministry**  
Help launch a new men's ministry at Camp Darby. Most of the previous leadership has moved and it's time to start all over again. See Barry Speck or Chaplain Porter for more details. We're looking for a time for our first get-together.
- **Men's Ministry Leadership Conference** (aka PMOC). Although it's called *Protestant Men*, we will combine efforts at Camp Darby to have a more effective program. The 2009 Conference at the Sauerland Stern Hotel in Willingen, Kneippwed Germany takes place on 13-16 February. The conference will train men to lead local ministries and plan the 2009 Fall Men's Conference. Your only cost is transportation to the event. See Chaplain Porter ASAP to register.
- **Prayer Requests: Send your requests to SGT Sanda or CH Porter**
  1. SGT Sanda— eye problems. Referral back to LRMC.
  2. Pregnancies: Rachel Porter, Amy Burrell
  3. TDY's: several are away on missions
  4. The Lord of the Harvest to change hearts at Camp Darby
  5. Chaplain (MG, USA Ret.) GT Gunhus undergoing cancer treatment. Chaplain Gunhus was the Chief of Army Chaplains from 1999-2003.
  6. SGT Christopher Everett. His mother Pam has had blood clots and an infection resulting from surgery. Pray for her healing and SGT Everett's ability to remain in close contact.

"Prayer doesn't change things.  
Prayer changes people who  
change things."

Dr. Dan Crawford, Professor of Evangelism and Missions, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

### Chapel Usage Policy

The last few weeks the chapel has been left very messy. The chapel usage policy states that all groups, whether a chapel ministry or a tenant unit, using the building are responsible to sweep floor(s), put away tables and chairs, clean equipment and wash dishes/utensils used during their event. That hasn't been happening. The only ongoing scheduled groups using the chapel are:

*Protestant Sunday School, Catholic Mass, Protestant Worship, Women's Bible Study, Club Beyond*

The chapel staff will remind these activities of the policy. All other groups using the building must reserve the facility through SGT Sanda by signing the Chapel Usage Request Form, agreeing to the responsibilities in this policy.

This is a respect issue and a responsibility issue. The chapel staff coordinates ministry. It doesn't oversee all programs. Don't disrespect the staff by putting extra work on their schedule. Also don't assume, as some have said, "Oh, the cleaning ladies will take care of it." This is not the cleaning ladies' chapel. This is where *WE* worship. It is our responsibility.