



HOUSE OF FAITH
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HOUSE OF FAITH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Merry Christmas from the House of Faith Family!



Front row, L to R: Seth Lowrance, Annie Zesch, Haley Miller, Shelley Emmons, Bailey & Mike Schmitz, Mackenzie Gunter, Darlene Bratton, Joy Zesch, Melanie Love
Back row, L to R: Reid Needham, Brandon Berry, Lupe Mata, Ryan Moran, Chris Love, Marci Menchaca, Kevin Reynolds

Holiday Hours

Our holiday office hours will be 9:30am to 5pm.

The House of Faith office will be closed December 24th, 25th and January 1st.



HOUSE OF FAITH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

"Taking JESUS to neighborhood children, youth & families since 1994"



The Tale of Two Fathers

By Kevin Reynolds,
Executive Director

Father #1 – To House of Faith:

"You guys made Christmas for my family this year."

Father #2 – To his family:

"Something shifted inside me, that changed the way I think."

Like the rest of the world, we are finding our way through life amid COVID. As from the beginning of the virus, and with every aspect of our ministry, as long as the Lord led and provided for us, we were committed to finding new and creative ways to continue "Taking JESUS to Neighborhood Children, Youth and Families." and it was no different at Christmas time this year.

Plans had changed nearly every week leading up to the scheduled week of events. Normally, we create big productions, transport kids by the hundreds at-a-time, use ALL of our vehicles, as well as several additional borrowed vehicles, pack them into a borrowed church worship center for 4 days, and give away around 1800 gifts.

In so many ways this year was a year like no other because almost none of what we normally do could be done this year... **except give a lot of Christmas gifts in Jesus' name.** Due to all the protocols, procedures, and safety measures, we had to be very creative in our approach.

We landed on a live drive-in style program, including gift bags for all the children, a family gift bag, and a meal for the entire family. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with expressions of gratitude in person and still continuing via text, phone calls, and online.

We realized early on in the week that, although we had been thinking that the virus was messing up Christmas, on the contrary, the virus had actually MADE CHRISTMAS this year. Without it, we would only have seen the kiddos, and instead we were able to connect with entire families.

Although there were many stories we could tell, there were two particularly precious statements from two fathers that were especially sweet to me.

Part of our invitation process involved personal texts from staff members using their cell phones. At the end of one evening, a staff member showed me a text from a dad to whom the staff member had sent a reminder text earlier in the day. The dad was expressing appreciation and mentioned how stressed their family had been lately.

I called the dad back to thank him for the feedback, pray for his family, and to see if there was anything else we could do for them. He told me how their family had been struggling and how things just didn't feel like Christmas time. He then walked through all of the parts of our Christmas program from

the food, to the volunteers lining the street waving and wishing them a Merry Christmas, to the program, to the family gift, and then the children's gifts.

I could hear his wife and kids in the background cheering him along as he thanked us for each part, and then he ended by saying, **"You guys made Christmas for my family this year."**

Another father came into the office on the morning after our Youth 321 party looking for his son's jacket that had been left behind the previous night. Within minutes, he was sitting down with our family pastor and pouring out his heart about many things in his own life and the life of his family. He mentioned the live drive-in program from the week before and was touched by, among other things, the family blessing at the end.

Marci Menchaca, Pastor Lupe Mata, and myself led the live drive-in program from the stage, and Pastor Lupe had the honor of doing the Christmas teaching and sharing of the Gospel before I taught and led the family in how to do a family blessing.

This father was truly moved at the opportunity to give a blessing over his family and related to us that just as he extended his hand toward his family, **"Something shifted inside of me that changed, the way I think."**

It is clear that the Lord was leading WHOLE families through the Christmas parties this year and working to bless and convict them to focus more on Christ as a family. To be honest, we did not see the great **blessing that would come by not being able to gather kids together as we always have BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS!**

We really do believe **the message of Christmas is essential**, and simply could never do this without all of you.

I quote these final two paragraphs from my article the past two months that shows in these regards, nothing at all has changed.

"It is because of this life-changing power of Jesus Christ that we continue to pivot as needed, shift as we have to, show up when we can, diligently teach those who come sit at our feet, give thanks to The Lord who is so good, and monthly, thank you, our faithful partners."

"Taking JESUS to Neighborhood Children, Youth and Families" has known many challenges over the years, but with your help, the work continues."

Thank you so very much. We love you and pray for you often.

In Him and for them, *Kevin*





321 Christmas Party

We had a special Christmas-themed 321 to end our semester with our 6th-12th grade students! Students enjoyed sitting around festive tables for hamburgers, hot chocolate, and games. There was story time, bad dad jokes, and Christmas carols, and we finished with watching "The Shepherd," a moving depiction of the birth of Jesus focused on Him as the perfect Lamb of God to pay for our sin, produced by The Chosen.

Gifts Given In Memory of:

Henry Orr "Boley" Brodnax

By: Darcy Maloney
By: Melanie Love

Philip Cecil

By: Lee & Sandy Puckitt

Dixon Cleere

By: Claudia & Sonny Cleere

Kenneth Fincher

By: Randy & Shauna Levens
By: Scott Fanatico & Staff of Financial Services Center
By: Aviator Wind & Apex Clean Energy

Gary Flage

By: Don & Bette Allison

Lynn Glass

By: Lee & Sandy Puckitt

Jerome Head

By: Lori Matus

Neta Yvonne Lancaster

By: Lee & Sandy Puckitt

Alvina Levario

By: Cita Moreno

Vernon Mansfield

By: Karen Pattillo

Stephen Miller

By: Cita Moreno

Roy Robb

By: Lee & Sandy Puckitt

Ruth Strain

By: Mary Dell & R.D. Barron

Esther Wyman

By: Curt Wyman

Gifts Given In Honor of:

Doug & Maggie Altom

By: Pat & Suzy Makins
By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Cathy Brown

By: Vanna Almond

Becky Cooke & Bill Holland

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Dan & Vala Cravy

By: Pat & Suzy Makins
By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Tony & Cathy DiMaria

By: Connie Bozarth

Tom & Nancy Granaghan

By: Pat & Suzy Makins

George & Sande Harrison

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Mary Ellen Hartje

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Ginger Heare

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Bill & Pam Holubec

By: Virginia Adams

Mike & Betty Jones

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

In Memory and Appreciation of
Gregorio Gutierrez, Conexion Hispana Founder and Publisher

November 17, 1954

December 13, 2020



Joe & Linda Kilman

By: Pat & Suzy Makins

Ron & Nancy Knight

By: Pat & Suzy Makins

Paul & Renee Lake

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Bill & Susan Lane

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Bill & Susan Lehne

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Dr. & Mrs. Jack Lewright

By: Pat & Suzy Makins

Steve & Margaret Lupton

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Cathy Menchaca

By: Bertie Almand

By: Vanna Almond

Joe & Libby Mims

By: Pat & Suzy Makins

Bill & Linda Noelke

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Bob & Sarah Post

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Sharon Scaggs

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Arthur Stelley

By: Robert & Linda Butler

Mark & Jackie Stevenson

By: Pat & Suzy Makins

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Mary Ruth Stevenson

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Cindy & Russ Stuart

By: Connie Bozarth

Bub & Susan Williams

By: LuAnn & David Lupton

Susan Woods

By: Carol Santry

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or online at
www.hofministries.org

WRANGLING TOGETHER COWBOY CHRISTMAS

By Ryan Moran

House of Faith held a first of its kind drive-in Christmas party this year at Old Ft. Concho, and the whole family got to take part in it! We had 12 Christmas parties over the course of the week, and families were able to RSVP for which day and time worked best for them. We saw a total of about 400 families come throughout the week! When they arrived at the Fort, families first checked in to receive dinner and a family gift, and they were then led to the parking lot where there was a program that included Christmas music, games, a message with a blessing, a family picture, and individual gifts for each of the children and youth. This year for our younger kids, we also hosted Teddy Bear Mobile where the kids could watch their very own stuffed animal being made for them.

As you can imagine, pulling this off in an effective and safe manner required an army of volunteers and resources! Lots of logistics go into a party like this, such as making sure there are plenty of hot dogs and cookies for everyone, packing enough gifts for each age group, and having people to man all the other positions needed to make the parties a success. While some may have thought we were “*in over our heads*,” our God is great at making a way when there seems to be no way. We were blessed with an amazing abundance of help from all over town, including a local church where we were able to bake over 3000 cookies quickly, students from several local campuses handing out food and gifts, a retiree who heard the music playing from over a mile away and simply felt called to help, and so many others that it would take a whole book to mention them all.

God rallied His people from all over San Angelo to make Cowboy Christmas happen, and we simply couldn't have pulled such an event off without volunteers and support from the community! It was such a joy to see families singing together flashing their car lights to the tune of *Angels We Have Heard on High*, watching kids completely go nuts as they received a gift they loved, and just the reminder that Jesus is always in control, even in the craziest of times.

