

KERUX

A Publication
of the
Student
Community
of
Calvin
Theological
Seminary

December 3, 1999

Volume XXXIV, No. 06

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Christmas is for Children

by Robb Vanderstoel

I was watching Jay Leno the other night and he asked his guest (actor Sean Hayes of television's *Will and Grace*) if he had any plans for Christmas. Hayes replied that he had plans to go home for the holidays but that it was not the same as he remembered from his childhood.

He and his siblings are no longer children; in fact they are now grown with children of their own. The joy of Christmas, he said, was watching their children experience it. Christmas, after all is for children.

At first I got defensive and thought to myself that the true meaning of Christmas is not reserved for children and, after all, the secular Christmas that most children are used to is not Christmas at all. Then it dawned on me that we were both right. Hayes was right that Christmas is for children and I was right that the secular Christmas really isn't Christmas.

In his *Comfort and Joy: A Study of the Heidelberg Catechism*, Andrew Kuyvenhoven says:

In one sense, Jesus alone is a child of God, because he is the "only [begotten] of the Father." In another sense, all human beings are God's children, because they are all "his offspring" (Acts 17:28). But in the most common biblical sense, only those who are "born again," or "born from above," are God's children (John 3:3). . . . The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's Children" (Rom. 8:16) (274).

So Christmas is for children—God's children. Yet Christmas is not about gifts, or even about families getting together as Hayes would lead us to believe. Christmas is about one Gift and one Family.

Of course even God's children come to-

gether as families during the holidays we give each other presents, but we must remember to keep our minds on Jesus and take the opportunity to let our children know the old, old story that we know and love so well.

May we all be blessed richly in the coming weeks as we join with our families to reflect on the Family and as we give gifts that point to the Gift, whether that be at home or here at the seminary or even at the annual Christmas Banquet at



Imagine

Editor's Note: The following piece was submitted anonymously. It is not intended to create division but to promote unity and discussion.

Imagine a place where no one is threatened by others' identity. Where everyone has an opportunity to voice their feelings and thoughts without having them qualified or reduced or labeled.

Imagine a church that ministers to all of its members without hesitation. Where all of its members sense God's call to use their talents for the well-being and edification of all. Where nurseries and small groups, classrooms and council rooms are each graced by a full representation of believers committed to one another in love.

Imagine a seminary where people— young, old, creative, administrative, female, male, academic, pietistic—are all valued for the gifts that they bring. Where the curriculum encourages the use and growth of many of the

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Prayer Concerns

By Mike Hooegeboom

Thanks and Praise

- †That Lisa Moelker's father is doing well after surgery.
- †That Marco and Dinorah Avila had a healthy baby boy.
- †That William Gerrit Brouwers was born to Gary and Dawn on November 26

Prayer

- ☉Pray for Alida Van Dijk and her family as her uncle John Beusink died of a heart attack. Remember also his students who witnessed this tragedy in class.
- ☉Pray for comfort for Rev. Jack Vos of Barrie, Ont., after the death of his wife Mirth.
- ☉Pray for Professor Jeff Weima and his family as his father died on November 8. Please keep them in your prayers as they mourn this loss.
- ☉Pray for Ena Kuyvenhoven, wife of Rev. Andy Kuyvenhoven, and their family as Ena was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Pray for strength and healing for them.
- ☉Pray for Joyce Borger's mother who undergoes surgery today (Friday) to deal with a cancerous tumor on her spine.
- ☉Pray for Jennifer Settergren's grandmother, Tress De Ruiter, who fell down her basement stairs Tuesday night and was placed in critical condition at Traverse City Hospital. She has begun to respond to outside stimuli but remains on a ventilator.



(Continued from page 1)
learning and serving gifts that God has created. Where no one pre-judges a person's work or ability.

Imagine the kingdom of God where slave and free, male and female, Greek and Jew are all embraced by the Lamb and brought before the great King, who smiles upon his children and offers food and drink of every kind to each one who revels with him in the beauty that comes from his creative diversity.

Imagine a community that lives in this imaginary world. Where each one manifests a spirit of cooperation and self-sacrifice, a spirit thirsting for truth and peace, a spirit of patience and love and peace, a spirit angry at injustice and desirous of reconciliation.

Must we wait until the Savior returns?
MARANATHA!



Announcements

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND FOOD

Everyone is invited to a Christmas carol sing and dessert buffet on December 10 at 6:30 in the Berkhof basement. Please bring a dessert to share. Coffee, cider and punch will be provided. Please join us for this time of fellowship! RSVP to Lisa Moelker (956-1490) or Yvonne Geleynse (974-9026).



CALVIN COLLEGE CAMPUS EVENTS

Calvin College is presenting several entertainment options this weekend. Tonight (Friday the third) choose between an improv show at 8:03



in the Gezon Auditorium or the Calvin Students for Christian Feminism's presentation of *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* in the Commons Lecture Hall with a discussion to follow. Saturday night the Film Arts Committee presents the Sweet Hereafter, also in the Commons Lecture Hall at 8:03 PM.

Calvin Theological Seminary Academic Calendar



Greek Comprehensive	Dec 8	Wed	4 PM
Drop/Add Deadline	Dec 10	Fri	1 PM
SPMC Interviews	Dec 17	Fri	Afternoon
Christmas Recess	Dec 20-Jan 4		
Oral Comps	Jan 4	Tue	
Classes Resume	Jan 5	Wed	
Drop/Add Deadline	Jan 11	Tue	1 PM
Hebrew Comprehensive	Jan 12	Wed	4 PM

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The KERUX is published bi-weekly on Fridays. Submissions deadline is the Tuesday of the week of publication. Anyone may submit an article, but priority is given to members of the CTS community. Submission does not guarantee publication. Anonymous contributions will not be published. There is no remuneration for submissions.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor, the faculty, the staff, or a majority of the student body.

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