

Haven Ministries



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December 2005 Newsletter

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We thank the Lord for your prayers, your support and your encouraging letters. Y'all mean so much and we could not do anything if you did not respond to the Lord's call to help us. Thanks to all of you and may our Father's love shine through you to those all around you.



This Christmas celebration is a memorial of the fact that the Lord was not content to leave us alone and blind in the dark. Rather the Lord's love was so overwhelming that He came to take care of our problem by Himself. The Lord's grace and mercy is always near to us. We thank Him for y'all and pray that this Christmas He blesses you with all His will provides....

Thanks Again
Bill and Terri and Kids

When God Died...

Not many people know about the connection between the Apostles of Jesus Christ, and the infamous atheist philosopher/poet Frederich Nietzsche. What connection you say? Well think of the famous story of a kid who asks a difficult Sunday school question "Well if Jesus is God and then Jesus died on the cross, did God die and who was running the universe then?" Both the Apostles and Nietzsche claimed that "God" died but even though the words are the same, the meanings for each was very different. For Nietzsche, an outspoken atheist, the phrase "God is dead" was not meant to mean that there actually was a "God" who actually died, but rather that Western European Civilization, which was based on Judeo-Christian thought, morality and culture, no longer believed in this "God" they had once proclaimed. Oh there were plenty of churches, seminaries, synagogues and the like, but no one actually believed in the God they memorialized. Nietzsche famously quipped "Who has wiped the sky clean?" He wasn't claiming he did it, but he did think of himself as a messenger boy, whom people saw as "mad", because like the story of the Emperor's New Clothes but in reverse, he seemed to be the only one who knew and understood - no one believes in this "God" anymore. Decades of enlightenment skepticism, religious wars, and Darwin had put to death for many this notion of a divine being who held the universe together and provided meaning and purpose and morality for all. These aspects of an universal vision, in some ways still believed then by the deists, was dead along with God. There is now only nihilism - no ultimate or universal meaning, no absolute or transcendent morality, no comprehensive vision, or for that matter no "facts" as well. All that is left is this meaningless hunk of rock spinning around in space, and only the strong man (Ubermensch) can rise above the herd and impose his own meaning and morality. For me Nietzsche summarizes the atheist position at its most consistent level. To the extent that Postmodern Christians, under the guise of "Emerging" somethings, are drinking deeply from the well created by Nietzsche, is to ultimately signal the death of God in American churches as well. More on this next spring.



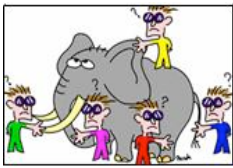
By contrast we celebrate Christmas soon. Even though we celebrate the birth of our Savior, who was called Emmanuel - God with us - in Isaiah 9:6 (the only Bible verse I really had known as a kid - the Charley Brown special being the totality of my religious instruction!) and even though we believe that God has "tabernacled" among us an infant child, we must be very clear that the Christmas event was merely the



Frederich Nietzsche

beginning of something , not its culmination. John the Baptist upon seeing Jesus alerts us to the real purpose of the invasion of the creator into the creation – “Behold the Lamb of God, who comes to take away the sin of the world”. No Gnostic silliness here, the very real God had come in a very real body, to pay a very real price, for the cumulative very real evil of/in all of us. So when Jesus went willingly to, as the Apostle Paul puts this in Colossians 1, a “bloody cross” in his “fleshly body”, in the most real sense – God had died.

But unlike Nietzsche, the Christians did not despair and descend into ultimate madness. For them the event of the Cross, memorialized at every church around the world, became the center point of the faith. The price had been paid and we are now free from the debt we owe to God and to each other. The death of God, in Jesus, is seen by the church as the most meaningful event imaginable. The love of God has been shown, not just talked about. In three days the power of God would be shown as well – the Resurrection of this same Jesus in the same physical body. All of this showing God’s ultimate concern and connection to His own creation. And in answer to our Sunday school question, even though God the Son had died – God the Father had not, and the Universe was still in His hands and under His direction. And God the Holy Spirit was and is still communicating the truth to us in the very word of God – the Bible. I do not claim to understand fully the Trinity, nor after only thirty years of schooling or so do I claim to have some special insight or illustration to make it simple. I do say that this is what the Bible teaches, both in narrative and non-narrative passages and we do well to heed both. From Christmas through Resurrection Sunday the Church is graphically reminded of how holy the Lord God is, and how loving He is, and like the Angels, we as a Church declare this message of Good News (Gospel) to a despairing world.



Many religious people today love an old Hindu story of several blind men circling an elephant. The narrator tells us that each comes into contact with a different part of the elephant and so declares the elephant to be what he alone is touching – in contrast with the others who are touching different parts of the elephant. The supposed moral of the story is that religions should recognize that they are the blind people, each apprehending a different part of the elephant and that no one religion can claim to rightfully declare who or what God is.

While this story is loved, it is deeply flawed. There is one person who knows the “truth” – the narrator. Someone DOES know the true nature of things. Nietzsche argued that there is no narrator – no God – to give a transcendent outlook or “God’s eye view” on things. The contrast with the Christian message cannot be stronger here. Even if we admit for the sake of the argument that all of us, including Christians are just as blind as all the rest of the religions, that does not do away with the Christian message – Christmas is the celebration of the invasion of the God who loves us so much, that He would not leave us blind and wandering in the dark. There is in fact a Narrator! As Hebrews 1:1-3 puts it “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...” This same Jesus affirmed the words of the Torah (OT), affirmed the truth of his own words and taught the Apostles who recorded his teachings in the Gospels and the rest of the NT. This has bound Christians from the earliest times to today. Yes “God died”, but it was not the end of the story. We celebrate the coming of our Savior and we remember with love and awe what He did for us. Merry Christmas to yall! [Back to Top](#)

Non-Prophet Update

We are taking this issue off this time, not because there aren’t plenty of false prophets around, but we need the space for more fun stuff! Lord willing, our address will be changing this January.

Our new address will be:

24604 E. Crestline Pl. Aurora, CO 80015

The phone number hopefully will remain the same. We will also change our email address soon, but the exact address is not yet clear. All of this of course depends on the Lord’s will and we will see how this all goes. The address for ministry support will remain the same. [Back to Top](#)

Christmas Party



Dec 11 – Haven Ministries Christmas Party/Open House – All friends, supporters and others are invited to our house for a great time of fellowship! This means you!!! We would love to have yall come. [Back to Top](#)

Prayer Requests

- 1) Please continue to pray for our family members. There has been some movement here, so we are thankful and excited about what is happening. Pray for our children who often wrestle with their faith.
- 2) Pray for those whose marriages have been damaged by sin and destruction through cults and personal failure. Pray for Bruce and Diane, JJ and Marc, Mike and Cheryl, Jeanette and Brad, Michael and Pam and others. Don and Peggy are doing much better! Please keep praying for them as they continue to heal.
- 3) Pray for our friends with chronic disease problems. My wife Terri is still wrestling with her problems. Please also pray for Rebecca, Sherri, Liz, Julie and Josh. Our friend Shannon has recovered from cancer surgery, but now has some different serious concerns. Pray for our dear friends Luke C and Paul R who are both having major concerns with their eyes.
- 4) Pray for our troops at war. We have many young friends who serve our country and need your prayers. Please keep in mind Matt and Chris C., and others. Matt R. has come home safe and sound! Praise the Lord!
- 5) Praise the Lord for his continual protection and provision. We are so blessed to have so many who take an interest in our ministry. Please pray that the Lord will raise up new supporters and help our existing ones to continue their help in this ministry effort. As with all of you, our costs have gone up due to oil concerns and the like. Please ask others to pray for us and perhaps pray that some new churches will come on board as well. We appreciate everyone and are thankful to represent and serve.
- 6) We have had some wonderful conversations with Mormons, JWs, Muslims, New Agers, Buddhists, Jews, Atheists and many other people in different religions lately. Pray for the CUT people like Fausto and Jason. Please pray that our efforts to share the Gospel will be fruitful and that we will be faithful in this work at all times. Please keep praying for Jehovahs Witnesses, Bruce and Bianca. Also remember Ian, Zach, Tim, Denver, Cathy, and many others we have talked to over the years. Also pray for a friend of my family Frank, an older gentleman who stayed with us for a few days. He considers himself an ardent atheist and we had some good talks. Pray for a young man Robby, who is a New Ager whom I talked to in our church bookstore!
- 7) I am still on my third draft of my dissertation proposal. Pray that I get it right one of these times! Keep this one up. It has been busy and I have neglected my studies. The committee told me I must defend my proposal this school year so I must get it going soon!!!
- 8) The class at the seminary has gone well Praise the Lord! We will see what the Lord has in mind if this is allowed to happen again. There will be several other teaching opportunities this coming winter, including a school of ministry class at my church on Sunday nights and a class on Romans on Monday night at a new Bible College in town. Pray that I will honor this responsibility and be edifying and challenging for the students. Pray that I will be faithful and be diligent to spend my time wisely with ministry and family concerns.
- 9) We thank the Lord for three additional members of the ministry team at Haven Ministries. 1) Matt and Julie Nansel, who have been interns for a while and now are regular missionaries with an emphasis on youth activities from youth groups to talking to skaters/Goths at the local parks. Matt also handles all of our website stuff. 2) Leonard and Grace Dominguez, who have been appointed as missionaries will be ministering in both churches and in witnessing to people in cults, etc.. They have extensive experience in this area and have a real heart for the lost.. They know what it means to be lost, especially Grace, who was a member for some time of David Koresh's Branch Davidians and lost her twin sister in the fire in 1994. 3) We are also adding Jeff and Sandy Christman as interns, with an eye to eventual regular missionary status. Both too have experience with the destructive power of cults, having been a part of the word faith heresy. They are passionate to reach out and help others who were trapped like they were. Please pray for all of our new team members - that God would bless and enrich their ministry, that they would be able to raise support as needed and that their families will be protected from the evil one who attacks. We thank the Lord for His provision in bringing along workers for the harvest, and we are thankful that these couples have responded to a call from the Lord for service.
- 10) Praise the Lord!!! As we mentioned last time, Heather gave her life to Christ and our conversation and Cuisine meetings played a major role in that. We have a new series of meetings coming up through a different church and we ask yall to please pray that those go well. God seems to really open some interesting doors through these types of meetings.
- 11) Our house adventure continues. Please pray that we get the right buyer for this house, and that both our closings will go well. It looks like the closing of our new house will be mid January. This means we will have our basement construction at that time. If you have any skills in that way, please consider helping in this. We have several who have volunteered and need more so that the work will go quickly and the kids will have bedrooms. Contact us if you are local and interested or Steve Mead in Aurora, NE if you are one of those Husker types! [Back to Top](#)