



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016

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Christmas Dinner Celebrates God's Blessings on COAH

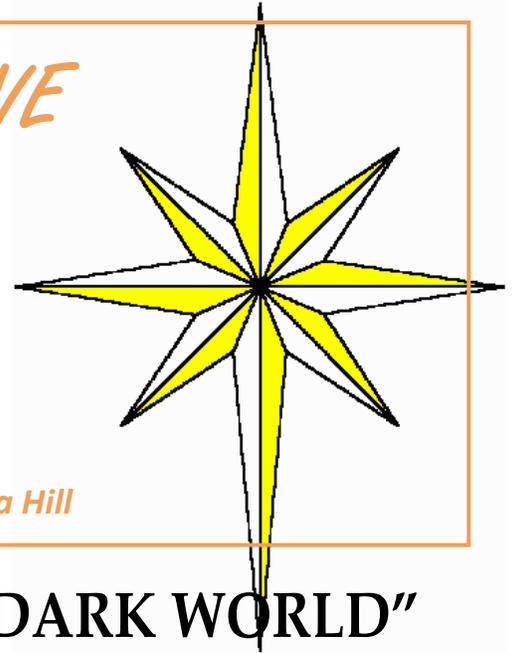
"A place where people who want to help and people who need help come together."

That's one of her favorite descriptions of the mission of City on a Hill, Janelle Sievert told about 100 of our friends gathered December 1 for the City on a Hill Christmas Dinner.

"Regardless of your needs or of your abilities that you have to share, you can connect here,"
SEE "BLESSINGS," p. 2

MAY YOU HAVE
A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS!

— From all of us at City on a Hill



"LIGHT INTO A DARK WORLD"

Christmas is a time of remembering the light coming into darkness. In Matthew 2 we read that the magi saw the light of the star when Jesus was born and followed it to Jesus.

In Luke 2 we read that the angel appeared to the shepherds at night with the glory of the Lord shining all around. The angel announced the birth of Jesus and then the sky lit up as the angel was joined by many angels.

God used light coming into darkness (the star lighting up the sky for the magi and the glory of the Lord illuminating the angel) to announce to the world

that the true Light had come. Jesus said in the gospel of John, "I am the Light of the world" and in Matthew He told His disciples, "You are the light of the world."

That same Matthew passage is where City on a Hill gets its name. Jesus tells us to let our light shine so people will see our good deeds and give glory to God. City on a Hill is about bringing light into a dark world. The ministries here help with physical and emotional needs. But they also help with spiritual needs by showing people in need who the Light of the world is.

May God give you a new appreciation of the Light of the world this Christmas.

— Gary Ellens, Director



A new map in the lobby shows City on a Hill ministries' impacting some 90 places around the world.

Dinner Celebrates God's Blessings at Christmas

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

said Sievert, vice chair of our board.

At the dinner, where every year we celebrate another year of God's blessings on City on a Hill, we had the added 10th anniversary opportunity to look back on 10 years – and ahead to the next “10, 20 or 70,” as Janelle put it.

Janelle, our past board chair, told how the board this year took a fresh look at City on a Hill's message. She pointed to the new logo – a city image atop a hill, with a cross at the center. And she told how she gets goosebumps thinking of the new map in the lobby, with pins showing more than 90 places around the world where City on a Hill minis-

try partners are at work.

“We talk about the light that shines in this building ... and that's going around the world, fanned in this place. What can we do but praise God for that?”

One way the light is fanned is at Vertical Church. Pastor Josh Reece told guests how the op-

“We talk about the light that shines in this building ... What can we do but praise God for that?”

portunity to plant a church at City on a Hill was an answer to prayer in a community that is 50 percent unchurched.

In January 2014,

Vertical Church launched with 271 people. Today, more than 400 adults attend, along with several hundred children who use wonderfully decorated spaces on City on a Hill's first and second



Pastor Josh tells how City on a Hill is an answer to prayer for Vertical Church.

floors.

Josh pointed out that other church plants spend a lot to rent space in theaters or schools and only have access a few hours a week. “Here we are able to renovate and make a permanent place where we can meet throughout the week, and it has helped us have a space to connect with other ministries, building relationships.”

Also, Vertical Church members join in a wide array of community ministries. “Why?” Josh asked. “Because we have a great opportunity through City on a Hill where, as a new church, we get to partner and have space like this that we can afford, where we can advance God's kingdom.”

This Christmas season, we extend a special thanks to those who supported City on a Hill ministries as dinner sponsors:

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