

# NEW HEIGHTS NOTES

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

SUMMER 2013

New Heights  
Church of the Nazarene  
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## WOMEN'S – MEN'S GROUPS

*Donna Rodriguez*  
Women's Ministry Director

For more information  
626-215-0730

*Alvin Busby*  
Men's Ministry Director

The M.O.D. Squad  
The Men Of Discipline

*Judy Pltts*  
Wedding Coordinator

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

*Ruth Polley*  
SAM Director

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:30 am  
Prayer in the Sanctuary

9:00 am  
Discipleship Hour

10:15 am  
Worship in the Sanctuary

## SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

**Wednesday**  
7:00 pm  
Traditions:  
Bible Study and Prayer-  
Sanctuary

**Monday**  
7:00pm  
*Celebrating Jesus*

**Tuesday**  
Prayer and Fasting

**Saturday**  
8:00am  
Community Breakfast and  
Bible Study

## YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

### The Next Wave Youth Group

**Wednesday**  
7:00 pm  
Next Wave Youth Center

**TEN13 Youth Group**  
**Wednesday**  
6:30-8:00pm  
Meet in Youth Room

## Pastor's Points

# What is Influencing you these days...

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I asked myself this question recently because I think God was trying to tell me something about the direction I was going in my life. There are so many things that are around us that influence us in how we live, without us even realizing it. For me it is sports. I just have to know the score or I just have to watch the game and it becomes so important to me that I forget or take my eyes and ears off the things God wants me to do. I recently read this story that may help us each take a look what might be influencing our lives without us even knowing it. It is called:

The Guest

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in our family. Mom taught me to love the Word of God. Dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries and comedies were daily conversations. He could hold our whole family spellbound for hours each evening.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies, and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind but sometimes Mom would quietly get up—while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places—and go to her room and read her Bible and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave. My Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt an obligation to honor them.

Profanity was not allowed in our house—not from us, our friends, or adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four-letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge, the stranger was never confronted. Dad didn't permit alcohol in his home. But the stranger enlightened us to other ways of life. He often offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished.

He talked freely about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man/woman relationship were influenced by the stranger.

I believe it was only by the grace of God the stranger did not influence us even more. Time after time he opposed my parents' values. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave. More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive.

But if I were to walk into my parents' home today, I would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures. His name? We always called him TV.

It is so easy become influences by what we watch on TV. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us,

*“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*

We all need to realize that the influences of the world are all around us and some we take for granted. But it is vital that we stop from time to time and look at the direction our lives are going.

What is it in your life that is influencing you in ways of the world and not of God. One of my daily Bible verses I pray every day is Psalm 139:23-24. It says,

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Will you allow God to search your heart today?

# OUR NEW CHURCH SIGN



If you haven't been by the church yet, our new sign went up Tuesday, June 18th. The new design reflects our mission to lift others to new heights in Christ's love. This is just another sign (I know a bad pun) that God is using us to proclaim His message to our members and our community.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Each of the past three years our VBS attendance has grown and again this year because we sign up children during our Community Day Give-Away. This year we had a daily high total of 35 children and about 50 total on different days. Part of this is attributed to each child who attends VBS gets the first choice in our Free Back to School Backpack.

This year's theme was Kingdom Rock where the message was "Kids stand strong for God." Each day the children learned Bible stories, verses, and songs to help them remember this message.

Each day they would begin in the sanctuary singing and then they would go to three stations. The first told them a Bible story, the second was a game and snack and they ended up making a craft to help them remember to stay strong for God.

On the last day Pastor Don got a chance to talk to the kids about what they had learned and ask them if they were ready to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Each child came forward and repeated the prayer to accept Christ as their Savior and stand strong for God.

Donna Rodriguez led this year's VBS with a entire host of volunteers to make this the one of our best Vacation Bible Schools. Thanks you to everyone who served and donated need supplies to accomplish this.

## BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

This year's back to school backpack giveaway we gave out 54 backpacks filled with school supplies. 34 were given out at Vacation Bible School and the rest on Sunday, August 4th after church. Each backpack was filled with all the needed school supplies. Thank you to Debbie Banta for leading this outreach and to all who donated items and money to get them filled

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# NEW HEIGHTS IS NOW CONNECTED



As we continue to grow and reach out to everyone that we can, we now have up and running all of the current social medias. Find us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/NewHeightsNaz](http://www.facebook.com/NewHeightsNaz)

Follow us on Twitter at:

Twitter @NHCOTN

And visit our new website at:

[www.newheightsnazarene.org](http://www.newheightsnazarene.org)

## 2013 COMMUNITY DAY GIVE-AWAY



Our Community Day Give-Away was Saturday, July 27th. This year's event was led by Luz Cruz and assisted by Georgia Clark. Community Day may have been the 27th of July but the planning and getting the donations for the event started months before by Luz and Georgia.

As donations came in, there were groups who sorted every item that came in to make sure it was in good enough condition to be given away. Our goal was not to give anything away that we may want to throw away. Every donation came from all of the members of New Heights Naz. From clothes to household items to furniture it was all good stuff ready to give away to someone who needed more than we did.

Along with the donations of these items we also gave away Korean BBQ (by the Morningstar Church), hot dogs, lemonade, popcorn and snow cones which everyone enjoyed on such a hot day.

We also had the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department doing Kid-Prints to all the youngsters to get fingerprinted before school starts. And we had a two new comers this year. The first was the East Valley Community Health Center handing our pamphlets on healthcare and helping those who aren't insured find ways to keep their families healthy. And secondly New Heights Naz set up a Prayer Tent to pray for those who needed it. On top of all of this we had a jumper for kids young and old to enjoy.

It was exciting and rewarding to see so many people get the needed clothes and household items that they needed and to hear them thank us for what we were doing for the community. We probably had around 250 people attend. The love of Christ was definitely reflected through our church at this needed event. Thanks to everyone who donated and served.

### August 2013

- 23 Movie night — begins at dusk
- 29 SAM's meeting 11:00am

Community/Church Bible study and breakfast every Saturday at 8:00am

### UPCOMING EVENTS

