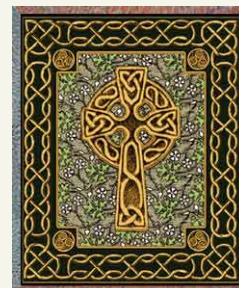


"LIVES CHANGED TO CHANGE LIVES"

In the Know...



THE ROCK
A CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WELCOME...

WHAT'S NEW?

Message Series:

- Greater Things
- Tearing Down American Idols

Plan Ahead:

- Baby/Child Dedication March 8, May 10, & June 21
- Baptism April 12th
- Walkabout (July 19-25)
Cost \$399; a backpacking experience for adults.

PayPal:

Now available for anyone who wishes to make donations to help us accomplish our mission.

We are excited that you have decided to be here with us today. **"The Gathering"** is our worship experience designed to be interactive and engaging. Our desire is to connect with God and each other through relationships.

We want you to know that you matter to us because you matter to Christ. Vicki Lynn and I, along with the partners of The Rock, look forward to connecting with you sometime during The Gathering.

We will begin in a few moments. Meanwhile enjoy the baked goods in the back along with a beverage.

You are invited to participate in communion any time during the service at the communion station in the back. We have developed a prayer station in the case that you need prayer or simply a place to be silent and reflective. Our goal is to create an experience that is relaxed and meaningful. We hope you enjoy the service and we look forward to your next visit.

Blessings,

Chris & Vicki Lynn Tong



Chris & Vicki Lynn

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- **Commitments to Christ in 09:**
- **Baptisms 2009:** Sign up for April 12th Easter Sunday.
- **Newborns 2009: (1)**
Noah Jayden Hemphill

• Giving Report: 2009

January	\$7,385.62
February	\$8,341.50
March	\$2,254.03 (1wk)

Monthly Need: 8,300

'09 Need:	\$16,600 (2mos)
'09 Giving:	\$ 15,727.12
'09 Deficit:	\$ 872.88

• Prayer Needs:

Ernie Irizarry (Christine's dad) rehabbing from knee surgery.
Bob Jeffers (Jennifer's dad) recuperating from leg surgery and complications. **Linda** (Friend from E Street) is having cancer surgery March 3rd. **Anna** (Anna Adamek's mother) is recovering from cancer surgery and ongoing chemo treatments. **Financial** strength and stability for The Rock. Partners would be faithful in tithing 10% to support God's work in people's lives.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

"Greater things have yet to come and greater things are still to be done in this city" is the chorus to Chris Tomlin's song "God of this City." These lyrics resonate with what I believe we have yet to experience in Las Vegas: Greater things are on the horizon because we worship an outrageously great God.

Las Vegas has developed a reputation for "Sin City" along with adopting a trendy slogan *"What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas;"* perpetuating the idea that there is freedom to sin with no accountability. So I ask you, where else does there need to be a church that is willing to do whatever it takes to transform its city and community? A church where the message remains the same but the methods are up for grabs. For such a time as this, I believe that The Rock has been called to transform lives one person, one family, and one community at a time.

It begins with one. One person can make a difference. One church can change its community. It's the power of one:

One + ONE = Greater Things.

One life that is willing to release his or her resources to Christ will result in "Ridiculously amazing things." Take for instance the little boy whose groceries were hijacked by Andrew the disciple. There were 5,000 plus people who were hungry and Jesus knew it; he was ready to meet that need. The power of one is about one boy with 2 fish and 5 barley loaves. The one boy plus God did an amazing thing, they feed over 5,000 hungry people and had leftovers. The boy began with one grocery bag, he relinquished it to Jesus to meet a need and went home with a caravan of 12 grocery bags. The physical miracle was amazing in of itself, but something else was happening that was even more amazing. The boy (along with the disciples) experienced the "Power of one." Imagine what happened that night. Imagine the boy explaining to his parents the power of God. Imagine the disciples in awe. Imagine what the boy shared in school the next day. Imagine the kind of party his parent's had as they invited their friends, neighbors and relatives to hear about this great event.

Too often we look at the needs of our world and feel overwhelmed by its magnitude. We give up because we don't think one person can really change things. But when we are willing to be the one who partners with God, we will witness greater things...and greater things are yet to come to Las Vegas. What if one church started a weekday worship experience on the strip in a casino for its guests and employees? What if one church got its small groups to meet our community with free coffee and donuts? What if one church shut down a Sunday service to serve the community with free food and family activities at a public park? What if one church developed a "Food Bank" to help the community get through tough economic times? What if one church engaged and served at the school it meets at?

There is a lot of brokenness in Las Vegas. What if one church dared to bring the hope that is in Christ through relationships? Don't underestimate the power of one. *When we relinquish all that we are and have to God, we will witness "Ridiculously amazing things."*

PARTNERS TOGETHER

• Staff Salary Cuts...

Due to a shortfall in our income through tithes & offerings, the financial & leadership teams have had to make some extremely difficult decisions in regards to our budget specifically related to staff salaries. Pastor Chris' salary will be reduced by 33%, Christine Hardin, our administrator's salary will be reduced by 50%, and Joe Ancheta, our lead worshipper's salary will also be reduced by 50%. These cuts will create some hardships for our dedicated staff. Pastor Chris and Christine will have to find supplemental income during this temporary period which means that they will not be as accessible. The good news is that we really

believe that God will provide through His people. We have been teaching that when we are in obedience to Christ we will receive blessings beyond our dreams. Our staff believes that this is a temporary situation and is fully committed and engaged to our mission and vision. Join the journey of tithing & discover God's abundant blessings.

• Baptism

Want to publically declare your allegiance to Jesus Christ and follow Him through baptism? Our next baptism service will be April 12, 2009 Easter Sunday (morning service 10:30 am) Please sign up at the connection table or call 340-9202.

• Baby/Child Dedication

We believe that parents are the primary spiritual nurturers of their children (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9). We dedicate parents and children to the Lord as Jesus was dedicated in the temple when he was a child. If you desire to be dedicated please sign-up for the following dates: March 8, May 10 (Mother's Day), and June 21 (Father's Day). You may call 340-9202 or sign-up at the connection table.

• Walkabout

Many of you have expressed your desire to experience God and community through a backpacking adventure. Dates are July 19-25, Cost is \$399 includes gear; only 15 spaces.

CONNECT THROUGH SERVING & GROWING...

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Nevada...

...is an academic group home currently housing teenage boys. It serves children with talent, ability and motivation whose circumstances do not allow them to be successful, and concentrates on the whole person—our scholars are challenged not only intellectually, but socially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically as well. We are currently looking for volunteers. The following is a list of how you might serve as a volunteer: as a tutor (with an emphasis in math), a mentor, dinner moms & dads (making dinner for the boys once a month), or if you would just simply like to hang with the boys and do some type of activity with them once a month."

These are the young boys that Nicole and her staff have been bringing to the Gatherings. They really like being a part of our church. Please contact Nicole Abapo, nabapo@bhgh.org, or call 250-3153.

First Newborn of '09

Noah Jayden arrived at 12:15 am, Sunday, January 18th to the proud parents of Joe and Liz Hemphill, Looks like Noah is going to be a late-niter. Let's rejoice in praise for this tiny miracle and pray for Hemphill family.

Coupon Connection

In response to the economic recession many of us are feeling the pinch as food prices climb higher. We need to wisely come together and help each other make our dollar stretch. Stephany Manriquez has organized a coupon connection. As you come to the Gathering stop by the connection table and browse through the notebook for coupons you need, take it and use it or help us by bringing in coupons that you will not use so we can help others.

Got job leads?

Share with us, so we may share with others. Send your findings to ctong_therockLV@cox.net.

E Street Essentials

Together we can help our friends survive the winter on the streets. Below is a list of needs...

- Toiletries: small travel size (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, & deodorant)
- New or used Winter Clothes (Sweatshirts, jackets, gloves, hats)
- New Socks & underwear
- Wet wipes, tissues, washcloth.

Every 3rd Saturday; 9:00 AM @ Ethel Pearson park (Washington & E St.).

Signs of Our Times

Vandalism has destroyed our sign by the entrance of Judith Steele. An angry person has shredded it with a knife. We are in the process of developing another sign like our big Yellow one on Rainbow. We need 2X4's & (2) sheets of plywood along with people to build it; call 340-9202

Update on Resistance

Due to budget shortfall, the Resistance Team has decided to meet once a month until further notice. For more details visit www.myspace/therockresistance.

Small Gathering

Be a part of a group where life is shared & becoming happens.

MONDAYS

- 1) **[Family SG]** 6:30 pm, Noreen Tong & Mitz Gill Meets @ 266 Bella Matese, 89183 v: 270-8668 [by South Point]
- 2) **[FITNESS]** 6:30 pm, Vicki Lynn Meets @ TBD v:340-6378 <<NEW>>

TUESDAYS

- 3) **[Mixed SG]** 6:30 pm, Dave Reed & Eric Honea Meets @ Dave Pena's home 7950 Valladoid Ave LV, NV 89178 v:245-4742 [Mountains Edge]

WEDNESDAYS

- 4) **[Moms SG]** 9:30 am, Vicki Lynn Tong Meets: Various Locations v: 340-6378 [Various locations—Southwest]
- 5) **[Women's SG]** 6:30 pm, Jennifer Krejci's, Meets @ 8909 Rendon Street, Las Vegas, 89143 v: 575-3739

THURSDAYS

- 6) **[Men's SG]** 6:30 pm, Keith Krejci Meets: various locations v: 575-2740
- 7) **[Mixed SG]** 6:30pm, Steve Ranney & Christine Hardin Meets @ 9545 Swiss Stone Court, LV, 89123 v:528-8805 [Silverado Ranch]

STAYING CONNECTED

• DVD Recommendations

Wall-E, Expelled, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas & Fireproof.

• Upcoming Releases

No recommendations @ this time

• NEXT SG Leaders Mtg.

Tuesday, March 24th, 6:30 PM

• NEXT Meet the Pastors

Saturday, March 21st, 5:30 pm

• Rock T-Shirts

Available @ the connection table
Short sleeve \$15; long \$20

• LEADERSHIP TEAM

- David Reed (Team Leader)
- Tony Davis
- Eric Honea
- Haleigh Honea
- Keith Krejci
- Christine Hardin

• NEXT Leadership Team Mtg.

Monday, March 9th 6:30 pm

• Copies of a Message:

Missed a Gathering? Email us...
ctong_therocklv@cox.net.

• CONTACT US:

Pastor Chris: 340-6379

ctong_therocklv@cox.net

Vicki Lynn: 340-6378

vickilynn_therocklv@cox.net

Christine: 340-9202 (office)

chardin_therocklv@cox.net

Joe Ancheta: 308-6748

jjanch23@yahoo.com

Jimi Jobin:

JimiJobin@gmail.com

Tammy Tyler: 496-6228

tammyt21@aol.com

SENT PARTNER...

ANNA ADAMEK

Our very own missionary in Eastern Europe. Let's stay connected with her.

Email Contact:

Anna_adamek@sil.org

JONATHAN & JOJO BRADLEY

Rock partners who are now missionaries in New Mexico as a teacher at Shiprock High School (Navajo Nation).