THIS IS 96
Dr. Lulamae Clemons Fabulous & Fearless For Almost A Century

Also:
Inland Pastors Greg Laurie, Tom Lance & Bishop Lacy Sykes Reflect on the Spirit of the Holiday Season
Please join our growing list of concerned citizens who help us continue to provide a vital service...keeping our community engaged, educated & informed.

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Contact the VOICE: 951.682.6070 or email suzie@bpcmediaworks.com
W hen I grow up I want to be just like Dr. Lulamae Clemons. I know I’m 46 and some people would consider that grown. But I mean when I REALLY grow-up. And if I use her current age as a gauge, I have exactly half a century left to achieve that goal. Yes, Dr. Clemons is 96, or will be by the end of the week, and I want to be just like her:

Fearless
Smart
Adventurous
Ambitious
Witty

It’s a lofty goal, and one I’m not quite sure how to accomplish, but spending just a few moments chatting with her would inspire anyone to want to be better, do better, and do more.

I know Christmas Day is over, so consider Dr. Clemons’ story a Kwanzaa offering. Look at it as an inspirational and special gift in the spirit of three of the seven Kwanzaa principles: Purpose (Nia), Self-Determination (Kujichagulia), and Faith (Imani).

When I sat down and listened to Dr. Clemons talk about her educational journey along with Marlan, her grandson, I was astonished by her story. I couldn’t imagine anyone, but especially a single African-American woman during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s moving from state to state, college to college, in search of educational and professional advancement, often simply at the suggestion of a friend, co-worker, or employer. Her determination is inspirational to me even now.

There she sat across from me at her dining table eating her baked potato and salad and drinking a glass of red wine. Slender, smiling, wearing a beautiful crimson jacket, she recalled significant incidents from her nine decades with ease and a level of detail, I admit, I would struggle with as someone half her age.

Her quick wit and sharp mind kept us laughing and inspired all at once. Her guiding principle of a long and successful life.

IULHQGVDUHFHOHEUDWLQJ’U&OHPRQV·WKELUWKGD DodDLQGHKDV"RULQJKHUWKLVZHHNDV "a lady of strength, dignity, and poise.” I would like to add fearlessness to that list.

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Her quick wit and sharp mind kept us laughing and inspired all at once. Her friends are celebrating Dr. Clemons’ 96th birthday and honoring her this week as “a lady of strength, dignity, and poise.” I would like to add fearlessness to that list.

Before I excused myself from the table she quoted a scripture she had recently heard an evangelist recite, “God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” For her, it’s not just a scripture to recite, it’s a guiding principle of a long and successful life.

Be Like Mike? No…Be More Like Lulamae. Fearless & Fabulous at 96!
The EDUCATION of DR. LULAMAE CLEMONS

As told to Marlan McClanahan
Portrait/Art Direction by Benoit and Kathy Malphettes

In 1917 America celebrated the second inauguration of Woodrow Wilson as president and despite his campaign slogan, “he kept us out of war” within a month of his second term he asked Congress to join the other world powers in battle. That same year suffragists were arrested as they picketed the White House in an attempt to pressure President Wilson into signing an amendment giving women the right to vote. Jazz greats Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie and the man who would become the Kennedy were born; as well as the woman who would become one of Riverside’s most respected citizens, Dr. Lulamae Clemons.

This week her friends have planned a special celebration on her 96th birthday two days after Christmas. “I’m looking forward to getting a cellphone for my birthday and moving into the 21st century,” she jokes about the momentous occasion. “All I’ll need is a hearing aid and directions on how to use the phone.”

Whether it’s learning how to work a smartphone in her 90’s, studying nursing in her 20’s, or earning a doctorate degree in her 40s, Lulamae values education, is fearless in her pursuit of knowledge, and has definitely never seen barriers to success and achievement that she didn’t believe she could overcome.

“I’m looking forward to getting a cellphone for my birthday and moving into the 21st century.”

- Dr. Lulamae Clemons

Born in Widener, Arkansas, a small town on the eastern border of the state whose population today is just over 300 residents, Lulamae admits that she still looks in the atlas just to see if the town is still there. Before Lulamae started grade school, her parents decided to move to Pueblo, Colorado on the advice of an Arkansas friend who suggested, “better economic and racial conditions existed for Negroes out West.”

In Pueblo, Lulamae attended a non-racially segregated elementary public school and non-racially segregated Centennial High School which in 1982 inducted her into its Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was attended by Lulamae’s extended family -- brother Lawrence, sister Clara, son Frank, his wife Dorothy, and their four sons. It was one of many accolades that she is proud to have received.

“Being considered for the award was a great surprise,” she says. “There were 13 Black students at the school when I graduated and we all had very few opportunities to participate.” While the Black and White students were involved in separate activities, she says that she never really felt excluded or rejected. “That was their thing and this was our thing,” she explains. Her sense of pride in her heritage and confidence in continued on page 6
In the historically Black Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri where she graduated sum laude with a Bachelor’s Degree in 1946.

Once again, Lulamae was encouraged to continue her education, so she moved from Kansas City to New York where she attended Columbia University’s Teachers College and earned a Master of Arts in Public Health Administration.

Now divorced and the mother of a son in grade school, Lulamae spent a year earning that degree. It is clear that being fearful is not in her nature. “I would work every night and take the train home at 11 pm still wearing my nurses uniform. I’d walk three blocks every night to my apartment and was never bothered by anyone. I never thought to be afraid.”

While employed by the New York Association for the Blind, a friend from the National Urban League convinced her to accept an interview for an employment opportunity in Riverside. In 1956 Lulamae landed at the Riverside Municipal Airport and was met by Dr. Ken Weisbrod who escorted her to the Riverside County Office of Education.

Aside from all the encouragement Lulamae had received over the years, she emphasizes that Riverside County Superintendent Ray Johnson was the first White person to ever give her encouraging words after she was publicly ridiculed for being “a Negro” once she accepted the position as the Director of Intergroup Relations.

While employed at the county office, Lulamae earned a Doctorate Degree in Education Administration from the University of Southern California. “Everyone who worked for the county office was told they had to get a certificate in something. I was told I had to get a certificate in Health & Development and was advised to enroll at USC,” she says. “I earned every certificate there was, and since I was piling up credits a friend counseled me to get a doctorate, so I did.”

“Thank God I was blessed to have a committee of three individuals who got along,” she says, “all agreed on my work and I never had to go back and keep revising it. I was truly blessed.”

She then took a position at the University of California, Riverside leading the government sponsored PRIME program that was designed to oversee and counsel districts in the Western United States on integrating their schools before settling into her final position as department administrator of education and training at Kaiser Permanente in Fontana.

Lulamae has traveled extensively visiting five continents and numerous countries, yet her most cherished journey was a month-long trip with her family to celebrate her retirement from Kaiser. The impetus to make the trip across the globe, “to see China’s Great Wall,” is ironic considering she is a woman who, for her entire life, has refused to see barriers or acknowledge obstacles.

Lulamae has been honored as Riverside Chamber of Commerce’s Citizen of the Year in 2002, received a Presidential Citation for Distinguished Service to Youth in 2003, named Woman of the Year by Black Voice News in 2005, and earlier this year received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County. However she considers the erection of the Riverside Martin Luther King statue with the help of her friend Rose Mayes as one of her most notable personal achievements as well as the educational accomplishments of her offspring.

If I could be granted any prayer,” Lulamae says with a smile, “it would be to be like Hezekiah in the Bible and have God extend my life a few more years... I’d love to be here to see my grandson Marlan finish law school and pass the bar.”
Granny’s Routine: The Secret Is The Power Nap

By Marlan McClanahan

Reading. Writing. Eating small portions four to five times a day. Patiently eating. Remaining physically active. Taking occasional 20 minute siestas throughout the day when possible. My grandmother lives at our home three days a week, and this is her routine.

Every Sunday morning granny’s friend Rose Mayes picks her up from her home to attend church and then drives her to our house just in time for lunch. Both my beautiful grandmother and her chauffer are welcomed with an after church meal prepared by my wife. Granny patiently eats a tomato salad, Mediterranean rice with saffron, and drinks a glass of red wine... slowly and deliberately.

While everyone else fellowships over lunch, she sits with her back erect, knees bent, and elbows raised as she directs her attention from and to those at the table by gracefully moving her head as though it rested on an invisible horizontal plane. Her movements display a natural elegance as she takes each bite with a patient and focused determination to complete the task.

She eats half the food on her plate then sets aside what remains to nibble on once she awakes from her nap, several hours later.

Sunday afternoons, my grandmother has her own imposed house chores and obligations. We secretly call her “The Organizer.” Before she begins, she finishes eating her lunch in a similar fashion - slow, deliberate with a small glass of red wine. But now, rather than eating at the dining room table she eats sitting on the couch using a television food stand to watch PBS or the PGA to check on Tiger Woods with her back erect not resting on the back of the couch, knees bent, with the television volume more than slightly elevated. She doesn’t need eyeglasses.

Then she begins to organize. Her first step, the garage, to place the week’s dirty laundry in

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Happy Birthday Dr C

By Hardy L. Brown

Dr. Lulumae Clemons (Dr. C as close friends called her) and I worked at Kaiser Permanente in Fontana for several years together before she retired. Dr. C, as close friends called her, was the Department Administrator of Education and Training. And being an African American in that position brought more challenges than her predecessor had to encounter.

I was the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator with responsibilities to develop and implement the company’s Affirmative Action Program plus be the in-house expert on any issues of race, sex, age, national origin and people with disabilities that surfaced in the Fontana Medical Center service area, which included Riverside at the time.

So when Dr. C was hired, that increased my activity because some people did not want to follow instructions from a Black woman nor believed that she knew what she was doing or that she had the support of then Hospital Administrator Franklin Boeckman.

I was the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator with responsibilities to develop and implement the company’s Affirmative Action Program plus be the in-house expert on any issues of race, sex, age, national origin and people with disabilities that surfaced in the Fontana Medical Center service area, which included Riverside at the time.

She taught me that being consistently confrontational is not wise plus it creates enemies in the long run. I was blessed to have her as a mentor and friend during those initial days of breaking new ground in building a diverse workplace.

It was Dr. C who helped knock down the nursing program at Chaffey College for not including Blacks and Latinos. I arranged the meeting, but I needed Dr. C to explain Kaiser’s need to develop a diverse workforce to the president of the college as well as the president of the board of trustees.

My approach was to tell them to either include Blacks and Latinos in their program or go somewhere else to train their students. Dr. C’s approach gained us a friend and Chaffey found Blacks and Latinos for their next session of nursing classes.

Now I understand that my friend is turning 96 on her birthday. She is still as good looking as when I first met her and still as spry. I know God has rewarded her for being obedient to his word by treating everyone with dignity and respect. Have a happy birthday and joyous celebration and thank you for being a blessing to so many people in our community.
piles – grouping the stacks by color and fabric. She then sorts old pictures and documents in an attempt to place them in some sort of chronological sense into photo albums. She tackles next the pots and pans, matching odd fitting Tupperware containers and lids to their corresponding partners. She spends so much time in the garage organizing, we secretly joke that’s where she meets her boyfriend.

She’s sleep by 7 pm but at midnight wakes up for a small scoop of vanilla ice cream, once again eating in a slow, deliberate way while watching CNN for fifteen to twenty minutes with the television volume more than slightly elevated.

On Monday she’s up by 9 am scrambling something together in the kitchen to eat that will be accompanied by a cup of hot coffee, with a little cream and no sugar. She eats sitting on the front patio while she reads the Press-Enterprise then the Los Angeles Times and then the Voice. After her morning breakfast and daily reading she takes a nap. Once she has taken a morning nap, she dedicates her time to corresponding to letters from friends around the world and community organizations in the office space she has in the house. Once she is finished with her correspondence she takes a nap. Yes, at almost 96 years old, she has found brief naps maintain a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Besides that she eats what she wants, drinks what she wants, does what she can, and has a strong faith in God. She keeps her mind active by reading and writing on a daily basis and keeps her body active by remaining an involved member of the Riverside community.
In The Spirit

Three of the Inland Empire’s most respected religious leaders reflect on the meaning of the holiday season...
Speaking of the “Spirit of the Christmas Season” brings many different thoughts and emotions to so many.

For the retailers, they desire that we would get into the “buying” spirit of the season, even before we have eaten our Thanksgiving turkey or enjoyed our pumpkin pie. It is amazing how our culture has allowed the buying spirit of the season to push out the spirit of Thanksgiving. Stores can no longer wait until the day after Thanksgiving for the madness called “black Friday.” Now in order to make more money they force their employees to work Thanksgiving Day in order to get a step ahead of the competition. We say we hate to see this happening but at the same time we flock to these stores on Thanksgiving Day telling retailers with our wallets that it is just fine to be open on that day, and that the “buying” spirit of the season takes precedent over family times of thanksgiving.

Many try and make the Christmas season one of joy and celebration but the holidays remind many of loved ones who are no longer here and that reality brings with it a pain and hurt that even Christmas with all the fun and tinsel can’t take away. For many of us Christmas reminds of us of great moments in time from the past that we shared with those we loved so much and now those chairs are empty around the table and their laughter is no longer heard. The spirit of the season can be one of sorrow in the midst of gifts and great joy.

There are so many emotions, far too many to talk about in a short message. We all need to remember and take time to reflect, cherish and hold firm the real spirit of the season. What is the real spirit of his season? It’s knowing that God loves this world and has held nothing back to prove that love to His creation. He sent His son into the world not just to be born in a stable but to live and then die a criminal’s death on a cross and rise again from the grave that everyone would have the opportunity to know him as Savior, friend and Lord. It would have been easy to send an angel in his place but He didn’t. It would have been easy to avoid the pain and call on the Father to take Him off the cross but He didn’t. He endured it all for you and me. You matter that much to Him. The “Spirit of the Season” is profound and yet so simple. Jesus loves you and paid the ultimate price, His life.
You Are A Difference Maker

Bishop Lacy Sykes, Jr.
Chief Pastor/Teacher
CrossWord Christian Church

Tis the season to be jolly. Fa la la la lie, la lie lie lie.

The Christmas season is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, but for many people that is not their reality. Because of the world we live in, this season has been repackaged and sold as a lie. This is not God’s fault; it’s just the reality of the world we live in.

This time of year should be a time to celebrate the One who came to give life to every man, woman and child, regardless of the skin they are blessed to live in.

The truth is many people struggle with the Christmas season. The truth is, “I don’t even like the Christmas season.” (I know that is probably not the right thing for a pastor to say, but that’s MY truth.)

I don’t like the stores, or the sales, or the selfishness we see at Christmas. I don’t like how the world refuses to invite Jesus to HIS own birthday party. I struggle with that during this time of year, but I’m not the only one. Many people struggle with the Christmas season.

The truth is many people are already struggling with life, and the Christmas season just shines a light on all that is wrong with their lives, and it makes it difficult for them to enjoy this time of year.

That is why as Christians we are here to make a difference in the world. Not to condemn or judge the world, but to be a difference maker. Now is time of year that we call Christmas. We can be so busy celebrating Christmas that we forget all about Christ. In a sense, we can actually lose God in the midst of it all. We can very easily lose God in the so-called celebration of Jesus.

For many, the Christmas story is the one about Scrooge being visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past, or maybe Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, or Frosty the Snowman or Santa Claus.

But technically, can we lose God? No, we really can’t. You can’t lose someone if you know continued on page 21
The 14th annual Lights for Little Lives Memorial Walk will again take place on December 31, 2013 in Loma Linda. The Unforgettables Foundation has presented this beloved memorial walk, candle lighting, child naming, and award ceremony on New Year’s Eve for over a decade. Hundreds reflect and celebrate the lives and journeys of children who have passed, but will forever be remembered in the hearts of those who knew them.

“The Light for Little Lives Memorial Walk brings together families, friends and the community to remember the many children who have died too soon,” according Tim Evans, Founder of The Unforgettables Foundation. “The event is another way the organization is able to further touch the lives of family members and loved ones in a caring way.”

This moving event is free and open to the public as a way of remembering all children who have lost their lives. The Foundation also recognizes those who work to heal, rescue and save children. Three physicians (Richard Chinnock, MD, John Mace, MD and Paul Reiman, MD) will receive the Top Doctor Pediatric award for their compassionate care toward our area children.

The group assembles in the parking lot of the Ronald McDonald House, 11365 Anderson Street, Loma Linda, across the street from Loma Linda Children’s Hospital, at 3:30 pm. A mother who lost a child in 2013 will release a dove at sunset, joined by a dozen doves in a memorial flight. Many say the dove flight, symbolic of a heavenly journey, is a key highlight of the celebratory awareness event.

After the ceremony, a three block walk will commence and be led by boy scouts, children, physicians, firemen, funeral professionals, Foundation volunteers and faith community leaders. The walk continues down Anderson Street and ends at the Campus Hill Church where there will be a 30 minute ceremony of candle lighting and name reading. Over 25 families attend this event annually to recognize a child who has passed.

If you see a downed power line:
- Assume that the wire and everything touching it is energized
- Do not approach or touch the wire
- Do not touch anyone or anything in contact with the wire
- Call 911 immediately and inform the operator it is an electrical emergency

At Southern California Edison, an Edison International company, we want to help you and your family stay safe around electricity.

For more safety tips, visit www.sce.com/staysafe

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
An Edison International® Company

FOR OVER 100 YEARS...LIFE. POWERED BY EDISON.

The Lights for Little Lives Memorial Walk was the very first public happening created by The Unforgettables Foundation in year one of serving families across the region. To date, over 4,000 cases have been served with financial and burial support/information from over 80 cities in Southern California. The Orange Belt Funeral Directors Association, various clergy associations, and medical associations in the region collaborate with the heartwarming celebration of our children in life and in death.

The Unforgettables Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded by Timothy Evans in 1999. During a decade of clinical ministry to children and their families, Evans assisted families with many crises surrounding the death of a child—not the least of which are the financial burdens experienced by families with limited resources. Since 1999 the organization has provided burial assistance for more than 4,000 families in Southern California. It is the mission of the organization that every family that goes through the terrible tragedy of losing a child should be able to afford a dignified burial. For more information please call 909.335.1600 or 909-335-1655 or visit us online at www.unforgettables.org.
NOTICE OF SALE OF VEHICLE

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk
FILE NO. R-2013-11287
p. 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26, 2013

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: DANA L. DASSLER, 123 Main St., Upland, CA 91786.

To: All interested persons in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, 9050 Main St., P.O. Box 431, Riverside, CA 92502-0431.

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice, 4290 Brookston Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507.

Date: NOV 26, 2013

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER RIC 1312343
To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: DANA L. DASSLER, 123 Main St., Upland, CA 92507.

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice, 4290 Brookston Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507.

Date: NOV 26, 2013

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
HERIBERTO MANUEL GARCIA
3629 BLACKVOLE AVENUE
RIVERSIDE, CA 92503

This business is conducted by: Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk
FILE NO. R-2013-12352
p. 12/12, 12/19, 12/26, 1/2, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

STYLISH CONCRETE DESIGNS
28204 Bay Ave
Moreno Valley, CA 92555

This business is conducted by: Individual. Registrant has commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

I hereby certify that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

Lorenzo Kay Sergent
7321 WINDSAIL STREET
RIVERSIDE, CA 92506

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk
FILE NO. R-2013-12366
p. 12/12, 12/19, 12/26, 1/2, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

TREND MARKETING GROUP
42375 Wyandotte St
Temecula, CA 92592

This business is conducted by: Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk
FILE NO. R-2013-12352
p. 12/12, 12/19, 12/26, 1/2, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

GOLDEND RAPID RESPONSE
5929 TAFF ST
RIVERSIDE, CA 92503

This business is conducted by: Individual. Registrant has commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

I hereby certify that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

MOORE SWEET PIES
32873 Lambrada Loop
Menifee, CA 92584

Riverside County
P.O. Box 2128
Sun City, CA 92586
To LaJome Moore
32873 Lambrada Loop
Menifee, CA 92584

This business is conducted by: Individual Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed on 11/1/2013.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

I declare that the all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

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Pastor Tom Lance, continued from page 10

dead on the cross to prove it to you. The spirit of Christmas is love, and hopefully God’s love would captivate us in such a way that we would be transformed to reach out to others and love all people with God’s love.

Luke 2:11, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Bishop Lacy Sykes, Jr., continued from page 11

that just spiritual jargon, or is it really practical and possible? I believe it is.

How can a believer in Christ make a difference in such a complex world?

How about first taking responsibility for your own life. We are all given one life to live, but sometimes I believe many Christians secretly believe in reincarnation. We act like we are going to get a second chance to do what we should have done the first time around. How about doing your very best to do what God has created you to do.

You are not an afterthought of God. He actually created you to accomplish some things on this side of heaven before you die (and yes that is going to happen) and go to heaven to forever be with Him. You have the spiritual power within you to accomplish more than you could ever imagine. Just move forward by faith and stop waiting for your season. Now is the time to do what only you can do.

Jesus Christ came into this world so you could make a difference in this world. A true difference maker understands the power of love.

One of the greatest scriptures in the bible is found in Matthew 22:36-40. The truncated version of this passage of scripture would simply be, “Love God and love other people.” That is simple yet so profound.

How about making that your life mission. Love God and love other people. Love God and love people who don’t look like you. Love people who don’t act like you. And yes, love people who are still sinners.

How about making 2014, and every year you are blessed to live thereafter, a year of being a difference maker, and a lover of those who Christ came into the world to save. He came to seek and save those who are lost. The world will be a better place when we who know the truth, truly demonstrate the love of Christ.

Pastor Greg Laurie, continued from page 11

where they are. If you know where they are, then they are not lost. But you can lose sight of someone. And some have lost sight of the Lord in their lives, especially at this time of the year.

Maybe you’ve had the experience of talking with someone who was checking their texts or updating their social media as you’re trying to tell them something important.

God never does that. God is never disinterested. God is never distracted. And even if we forget about Him, He never forgets about us. Christmas is not about buying presents; it is about His presence in our lives.

Used by permission from Harvest Ministries with Greg Laurie
How will you celebrate the holidays?

Our holiday season is a blend of tradition and newer customs of several families and cultures over 50-years. We kick off the holidays, December 24th with the whole family having dinner together. Tamales pozole, champurrado, bunuelos and punch made from sugarcane, fruit and piloncillo. After dinner the gifts are exchanged and opened. (Gifts in general for all generations of the family). By midnight everyone is home in bed. New Year’s Eve is watching fireworks in person or TV, then dinner and countdown to midnight and for the older generation, velando el huevo (watching the egg).

January 6th, Dia de los Reyes Magos (day of the three wise men) the day the children traditionally receive their gifts, based on the Wise Men’s gifts to the infant Jesus. The meal includes a Rosca de Reyes (Wise Men’s bread) a cake in the shape of a large donut with pieces of dried candied fruit on top. Somewhere inside is a small plastic baby. A slice of the cake is given to everyone. The slice that has the baby chooses the person that will be responsible for providing the tamales for the dia de la Candelaria on Feb. 2nd. This ends the Christmas festivities. Then its time for Carnaval and pre-Easter activities. But that’s a whole different story.

Art Smith, Facilities Manager

I will enjoy my holidays as I have for the last 4 years, with my beautiful wife, daughter, handsome son and grandson. Also, over indulging in wine, food and fun.

Christopher Allen
Creative Director

I always look forward to our family tradition of getting together on Christmas Eve enjoying family, friends, singing Christmas carols and eating yummy food! I celebrate my birthday from the 30th through the New Year!

Natasha Ferguson
Director of Marketing

I will be spending my holiday surrounded by my children and grandchildren running here to there and back again. All excited and charged up on way too much candy and goodies.

Susan Morris
Office Manager

I will spend time appreciating the people I love. My goals include having conversations with my parents to learn family history, having my kids just sit and talk, and spending time with my wife. Reflecting and reenergizing. I am learning how important knowing your history and making sure it is not lost or diluted.

Hardy Brown, II
Executive Director
Black Voice Foundation

I don’t celebrate any particular holla day... I holla everyday!

Richard Jones
Distribution/Circulation

I celebrate it with my family and close friends. The holidays are a chance for me to create and practice old holiday traditions. This year I plan to have the kids play pin the nose on Rudolph and make s’mores with hot chocolate!

Auvenida Peña
Social Media Manager

We asked the VOICE Social Universe how they celebrate the holidays, these are some of the tweets and posts.

Andy Quintana - Moreno Valley, CA
I celebrate by being with my family and going out to buy gifts for them. We watch Christmas episodes of our favorite shows and Christmas movies like “Scrooged” and “A Christmas Story”. I absolutely love decorating the Christmas tree and wrapping gifts. I LOVE wrapping gifts. It’s the best! Usually, we have some pozole as our meal on Christmas day. I enjoy playing Super Mario Bros 3 on Christmas Eve, and Paper Mario on New Year’s Eve. It’s an annual thing I try to do.

Marlene Orozco – Perris, CA
I spend the holidays with my family. Eating, watching movies, listening to Christmas music, playing card games.

Cristina Topete-Velazquez – San Bernardino, CA
You cannot celebrate without plenty of food and drinks with family, friends and loved ones. We take the time to thank our Lord above for our blessings, and pray for those less fortunate. Making new memories to talk about for the year coming.

Monica De Leon – Los Angeles, CA
I spend it with my children and my grandkids. I love to see the kids get so excited when they open their toys. Makes me feel all warm and fuzzy. Then I drive back to LA.
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