



# The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

## Shine Your Light!

Reba and I were recently invited to and provided tickets for the **Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra** at Temple Square. What an exceptional evening it was!

The choir and orchestra—all the music—the choreography and lighting ... the whole evening was amazing. My favorite part was when Sir David Suchet, a guest performer from England, told the story of England's heroic humanitarian Nicholas Winton. Winton helped to rescue hundreds of children whose families were fleeing Hitler's infamous onslaught against Jewish people. Winton's selfless, courageous efforts saved hundreds of children. Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, had happened. Hitler's intense persecution of imprisoning and exterminating Jews went into full force. Many fled to Czechoslovakia and became trapped because the Nazi forces were there too and began closing the borders. The situation was dire. Winton felt he needed to do something. He could not rescue the parents but decided to save as many children as possible. He found families and homes in England that would take the children in. The British government told him he had to raise thousands of dollars per child in today's currency. He was able to help 669 children escape. They never saw their parents again. It was a heart-breaking time!

Vera Gissing, one of the children Winton saved, and now in her late 70s, puts the rescue mission in perspective: "Of the 15,000 Czech Jewish children taken to the camps, only a handful survived. Winton had saved a major part of my generation of Czech Jews." (quoted from an article written by Foundation for Economic Education, March 18, 2009)

The thousands of us who attended this Christmas Concert were held in rapt silence as Sir David Suchet told this tragic story. Then Suchet introduced Winton's only surviving son to the large crowd. We erupted in a standing ovation. The most moving part of the evening was when Suchet challenged us to hold up our lighted cell phones, sing a modified verse of the carol **Once in Royal David's City** as a prayer, and commit to being lights shining in our world—to be kind, to do good. It was a powerful evening. Tears welled up in my eyes!

SO...I am passing the challenge on—whether you are young or old, rich or poor, religious or not, no matter what your political preference might be—be a light shining in the darkness this year. Be bold. Seize the day. Take the initiative to be kind and good. Use your voice and actions to influence others for the good. Do not respond with evil for evil. Change the cycle. Do the good. Be the good. God is on the move in our world!



## Annual Meeting, January 8

Our Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 8, 2023. The agenda will include a review of this past year, approval of our 2023 budget, election of new officers for our church council and an exploration of possibilities for our next step regarding continued pastoral ministry.

The meeting and potluck will take place after our worship service in our fellowship hall. Once we have examined and discussed the possibilities for pastoral ministry, we will do a congregational vote on Sunday, January 22.

God is good. All the time.

### **Weddings Bells are Ringing for Mike Morgan**

Mike Morgan invites us to attend his wedding to Charee Bethel on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14th. The location for the ceremony is Lomond Peak Rehabilitation Center, 524 E 800 N St, Ogden 84404. We will announce the time for their service when we know it.

### **Scout Sunday is set for February 12**

Please join us for the service and celebrate the great things that Troop 54 has accomplished in 2022 and cheer them on for 2023! The troop's dedication to community service is wonderful.

### **Planning Your Funeral Workshop, February 19**

Who likes to talk about such things? Probably none of us. Yet thinking ahead and planning your funeral can be helpful and make it easier for loved ones. Charlie Tuft will be coming to us on Sunday, February 19. He will lead us in a discussion on all the various aspects involved in funeral planning in a workshop following our worship service that day.

### **Memorial Celebrations for Elim Members**

One more Elim member joins the list of those who passed on in 2022. Mildred (Mickie) Porm said her final goodbye to all on Sunday, December 11. Her service will be Saturday, January 14th at 2 p.m. at Elim with a gathering afterwards in our fellowship hall.

Norm Soland's service is at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at Lindquist's Mortuary in Ogden.

**Ash Wednesday Service** will be held at noon on February 22nd.

### **Sharing the Love on Valentine's Day**

We are still discussing what type of sharing we will do in honor of Valentine's Day this year. Last year, we collected and delivered special treats ("junk food") to the kids at Youth Futures. We will announce this year's project on our facebook page, including in the week's Elim Extra, as well as in the weekly bulletin. **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

