

Shadrach Youth Ministry

Don & Karin Litchfield
Administrators, 260-447-8732
dklitchfield6@verizon.net
www.shadrachyouth.org

2536 E. Fairfax Ave.
Ft. Wayne IN 46806
260-447-8732

Other Staff:
Reimar & Marcia Schultze, 765-452-1638
Michael & Carla Hubbard, 616-846-5419
Nicky & Jenn Farmer, 765-626-0223

Christmas or Holiday?

Should we force the retailers to call this shopping season Christmas? Many are pushing for a boycott of stores that insist on calling the season a neutral label. Let me ask you: *if these stores label their multi-million dollar sales "Christmas," will it make it truly Christmas?* Will they then start putting "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" banners up? Maybe they will even start encouraging you not to spend as much and put out a manger with a Christ-child. I think not!!!

I suggest it would be most effective to have a separation between the world (retailers) and the believers. Let's show them the difference between a real Christmas and a commercial one. We as believers can pour ourselves into our plays about Christ, family togetherness and other celebrations of His birth. We can spend less money on material things for those who don't need them and express our appreciation in ways of actions and words. Finance and time can be given to help the needy. Basically, we need to ask Jesus, "How do You want me to celebrate Your birthday this year?" If each of us would do that, we would make a much bigger (and better) impression on the world than forcing the retailer to do all their holiday marketing "Christmas." Commercial greed and spiritual wealth do not mix. People on the outside of the church would begin to see the contrast between the emptiness of the "Holiday," and would begin to yearn for a *real Christmas* themselves!—Karin

"Much of what we do and think is conditioned by our deceived humanistic society. It is so much a part of everything around us that we think it is normal. But the world's normal does not always match the Word of God. We must continually seek God and His Word for His truth."

—Nancy Campbell

What God Can Do When You're Down

As some of you know, I had a neck injury this past summer and recently it has been acting up again. This really is not normal for me, I love to be up and going, but for this season, God has me quiet before Him. It has been an incredible time of learning what God wants for me.

As of right now, I have read seventeen books in less than a month and many of them the Lord has used mightily. The Bravehearted Gospel by Eric Ludy spoke to me in ways that I needed most. Ludy talks about how we all have heard about getting 'in touch with our feminine side', but what we really need in Christianity is to re-infuse the masculine. In normally try and be a 'people person' with a nice message, etc., but that is not what is always needed or appropriate. To have a historic (or bravehearted) message, we must have both the feminine (love, grace, etc.) and masculine (holiness, sound doctrine, etc.) side of the gospel. If we only have one side or the other, we will not have the full message that Jesus and the early church did, and we won't be able to truly be a force in this world.

Wesley Gold and Spurgeon Gold are two books compiled by Ray Comfort. God used them to further the work in me on several different areas. This sentence by Charles Spurgeon really struck me, "The gate of Heaven, though it is so wide that the greatest sinner may enter, is nevertheless so low that pride can never pass through it." The Lord showed me how there is still pride in my life that I need to deal with. I cannot really be a true disciple if I keep my head high with haughty thoughts or attitudes.

During some of the quiet moments of prayer and silent meditation over the Word, God has been giving me direction for my life. However, even though these times were very exciting for me, I found it hard to get myself quiet before Jesus. Getting my body still was easy, but making sure my spirit was still was a whole other thing. For me it was a battle to be still and know that He is God.

This time has been one of much spiritual growth and renewal, but much of the time has been spent in battle over the mind. I've had to resist the temptation of anxiety while lying on the bed thinking. The temptation has been great to only accumulate knowledge and not apply what God has been teaching me. However, I am truly thankful for this time and I am very excited about all the things God has taught me. These lessons have been great and I need God's help to work them out in my life.—Jordan

"Today (election day) we find ourselves standing knee deep in the blood of 50 million children asking God to bless us and fix our economy."

—Matt Lockett of Bound for Life

Why Shadrach?

I think that Shadrach was named Shadrach because of the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Even though these three were taken away from their homes they still followed the rules that God had given them. When everyone else was eating the king's food and bowing to the statue, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood for what they believed. So, I think the Shadrach Ministry means that you should stand up for what you believe even when no one around you will stand with you.
—Brianna Light

Shadrach Conference Call!!

Call the number below at 9pm EST on December 12th for the 1st ever **Shadrach Soldiers Call**. Be ready to give a witnessing report, and/or to pray for each other and this ministry. We will have a brief devotional thought. The call will last less than 30 minutes. This is a long distance call, so be sure to check with your parents.

Conference Dial-in Number : (712) 432-0080

Participant Access Code: 795227#

Your servant for the sake of Jesus Christ,
Pastor Nicky Farmer

A Word from Pastor Schultze...

"Before the gods will sing praises unto thee." (Psalm 138:1)

This is what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. This is why you know about them. Their testimony was not hidden. They sang praises before the gods of this world. Yes, it may lead to a rocky ride. First, it made them governor over provinces. Then it took him into her fiery furnace. But God took them out of there in good condition, and they were promoted and honored as never before. Their God was now honored above *all* gods among *all* nations.

Do you sing praises before the gods of this world?

Richard Wurmbrand was a Romanian Jew. He was an atheist, raised under communism. There was a sick old farmer in a little village high up in the mountains of Romania who prayed, "Lord help me to bring a Jew to Christ, and bring him to my village." God brought Wurmbrand to his village and the farmer led him to Christ. A few years later, 4000 church leaders of Romania were recalled to convene a parliament to swear their allegiance to communism. All did except for one. All chose mass murderer Joseph Stalin for their honorary president, except for one. Richard Wurmbrand got up and spoke for Christ. The whole meeting was broadcast to the whole nation. Wurmbrand sang praises before the gods of communism. And this is why we know him.

Do you want to be known in heaven? Do you want to be known among the unbelievers? Do you want to be known in hell? Sing praises before the heavenly gods. Make His name known. Put Jesus in every letter you write, in every telephone conversation you have, on your Facebook messages, in your public engagements. Sing praises "before the gods."

"When we deliberately choose to obey God, He will tax the remotest star and the last grain of sand to assist us with His almighty power."

—Oswald Chambers

Why Shadrach?

I think the reason why Shadrach was named Shadrach was because Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stayed faithful to God even though others around them were not faithful. Shadrach is about challenging young believers to follow God even if others do not take a stand. TAKE A STAND!!!—Kendra Ramsey

Why Shadrach?

I think God wanted the camp to be called "Shadrach" because Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood up against the King because they did not want to disobey God. Maybe Shadrach was their encourager and the one who led them or was the speaker. —Shannon Slatten

Upcoming Events:

April 3-5, 2009 Spring Weekend
June 7-13, 2009 Summer Retreat

Assignments:

✂ *Veteran Shadrach Youth*

2nd Trimester—January 26, 2009

- Biography Book Report (choose from Booklist)
 - Servanthood and Witnessing Reports
 - Memorize: Psalm 103:8-16
- Memorize a 3+ stanza hymn

✂ *1st Year Shadrach Youth*

2nd Trimester—January 26, 2009

- Biography Book Report
 - Servanthood and Witnessing Reports
 - Memorize: Psalm 103:8-16
- Shadrach Manual Report #2: Maturity