

Casa de Cristo 'Stay at Home' Watch Night Service

Dec. 31, 2009

7pm – Midnight

You are invited to participate in a Watch Night service to welcome the new year in which your church family. Many of us live at great distances from the church and have young children to care for or do not like to drive at night. New Year's Eve is traditionally a dangerous time for driving because so many people on the road have consumed high amounts of alcohol.

It is our desire to bring in the New Year as a celebration of what God has in store for us. We have therefore decided to institute a 'stay at home' celebration that we may all participate in. Below are some suggested activities to engage in with your family. If several families choose to celebrate together we hope there are also activities you will enjoy here.

7 pm – 10 pm

Gather with family and friends and enjoy:

Table Game Ideas – Card Games - Uno, Hand & Foot or other card games - Board Games: Clue, Monopoly, Scrabble or Charades (remember to consider the age of participants).

TV/Video Entertainment: New Year's Eve Shows on TV; Cable movies; rental movies (remember to get them ahead of time).

Food -

1. Late New Year's Eve Dinner
2. Finger foods and Snacks – veggie tray with dip, cheese and meats; popcorn or chips; taquitos, mini-quiche and pizza rolls are easy frozen treats that may be heated up as you need them

10pm – 12:05am

Song – This Is the Day

The last two hours of the evening provide an opportunity to talk and share. A few songs have been interspersed to lift praises to the Lord. Feel free to select songs you would like instead. Things past and things to come are appropriate here. Perhaps some lessons learned that will help guide you in the coming year will be shared.

10 pm **Memory Sharing**

Spend some time remembering the year that is ending. Take turns sharing some of the memories of the fading year (approx 5 minutes each). Some people like to put in writing those burdens they have been carrying. If you do this you may have a ceremony to burn these items just prior to midnight. Remember

to burn in a safe environment i.e.: an outside grill, fireplace or a deep non-flammable bowl. (Keep water nearby to put the fire out if necessary.)

Song - Create In Me a Clean Heart

11 pm **Dream Sharing**

Set aside regrets, losses, and things that cannot be changed. Now is the time to look to the future. What are some of the hopes you have for the coming year? Take turns sharing again. If there are things you would like to pray for together have someone take general notes, i.e. Finances, Job, Health, New Home etc. Do not list specifics.

11:55 pm (time may be adjusted to allow for more participants)

Just before the midnight hour will be the time for the corporate prayer. Have someone lead the prayer and be prepared to end the prayer. Everyone should have an opportunity to pray but do not require people to pray aloud.

12:00 am At midnight the designated person should give the closing portion of the prayer to complete welcome in the New Year.

Song - Bless That Wonderful Name of Jesus