



The Goodness

Monthly Newsletter of Uptown Baptist Church

January 2026

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Uptown Baptist Church

Save Me!

Pastor Nick Kim

Steve had worked for Search and Rescue in California for over 20 years and had an impeccable record. When he got the call that an 8 year old girl had gotten separated from her parents in the mountains, he knew what to do. Steve talked to the girl's father on the phone and told him to relax. He knew how to find her but it would require him going to their house and breaking in to get a photo, some clothes, pets if available, and hair brushes. The little girl's father didn't care. He told him to go.

Steve got a rush from being able to break into people's homes and getting what he needed to be able to go and complete the rescue. When he reached the mountains, he met up with her parents. He took out a picture and the father told him that that wasn't his daughter in the picture. Steve then asked if the jacket he was holding belonged to the daughter. Exasperated, the father said, "No." Steve then escorted the father to his truck and asked if the dog in the kennel in the bed of the truck was his. The father screamed, "No!" Steve realized he had broken into the wrong house. Not only that, he had stolen a family picture, a little girl's clothes, a family pet, and a hair brush.

In our lives, we have all needed rescuing. All of us have needed rescuing from our sins and consequences that may have followed. I think all of us can say that after getting rescued from our sins, we've still been in precarious situations that required help.

Instead of crying out to God, we get creative and clever like Steve did. We get lonely. We go to the wrong place and then wonder why we ended up with the wrong person. We have financial difficulties and then wonder why the credit cards and payday loans only made things worse. We get hungry and fill up on fast food and wonder why our clothes no longer fit. These things may seem trivial, but the question is, "Why don't we turn to God?" God has saved us from our sins, but sometimes we need Him to save us from ourselves.

Steve reverted back to his training. He used his own dog and within a few hours found a cold and scared little girl. She was safe from all the harm that could have come to her in those mountains and would soon be reunited with her parents. Are you safe from what this world can throw at you? Unfortunately, nothing could save Steve's impeccable record or the embarrassment he faced when he had to return the items and dog to a family that had no connection to the rescue.



youtube.com/@UptownBaptistChurch



SUBSCRIBE



Save Me!

- 1/4 God Alone
- 1/11 Losers & Keepers
- 1/18 True Faith
- 1/25 Trustworthy Saying



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Winter Walk on Wilson

Before 1900, Wilson Avenue was vacant farmland. When the train station opened in 1900, residences started to be built in this part of town. In 1906, the community church was built. In the 120 years since then, hundreds of businesses have come and gone. On Friday, December 5th, the train station hosted a popup Christmas market and the church (now Uptown Baptist Church) was one of many places open for the annual Winter Walk on Wilson.

There are many places that serve coffee and hot chocolate. Our tradition for this event is to serve warm apple cider with sweet treats. Many people from our community stopped by. We even heard from some people that they had been walking by our building for decades and always wondered what the inside looked like. We had great conversations with our neighbors. Several of our members stopped by and took turns singing carols on the front steps. It was a great time and a great event with our community. Many thanks to the Uptown Chamber of Commerce for continuing to host this event.



Children's Christmas Party

Santa Claus, reindeer, fighting over mall parking spaces, and maxing out credit cards is not what Christmas is about. Scholars believe the wise men started out in what is modern day Iran. They followed a bright star. That star shone down on the little town of Bethlehem where they found the newborn king Jesus and presented Him with gifts.

Do children across Uptown know this? Every year we want to give them a taste of what Christmas is really about.

On December 6th, we hosted our annual children's Christmas party. We had good food again, but Pearl insisted we make food that kids like, not just what we like. We had Christmas music, games, crafts, and told the story of that first Christmas. We passed out gifts donated by some great folks who continue to show love towards the kids in our community. A lot of those kids spent this Christmas in a shelter.

We were glad to see Christmas joy on their faces and those smiles warmed our hearts. They got really great gifts and heard about the greatest gift of all that came as the baby Jesus.



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