

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hispanic Congregations

January – March 2011

January 2

This year, resolve to cut distractions from your life, starting with your behavior behind the wheel. Nearly 6,000 people die and more than half a million are injured annually in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver. Please, put down your cell phone and pay attention to what lies ahead. You won't miss out on anything — except for an avoidable crash! *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

January 9

Make a promise for 2011 to never take a trip without wearing a seat belt. In 2009, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 12,713 lives. One of the many lives saved this year could be yours or a loved one's! *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

January 16

Wintertime is full of beauty, but much of the season's décor is not so lovely when you're traveling. Snow and ice create many travel concerns. Be prepared! Get your vehicle serviced, keep an emergency kit stocked, inspect your tires, and slow down enough to drive safely in the winter weather conditions. *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

January 23

Sometimes people feel safe in large vehicles — so safe, that they don't think it's necessary to buckle up. If you're taking a church trip in a 15-passenger van, always wear your seat belt. An unbuckled 15-passenger van occupant involved in a single-vehicle crash is approximately three times as likely to be killed as a buckled occupant. *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

January 30

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20-year-olds. During these winter months, help teach the inexperienced drivers in your life the importance of slowing down in bad weather, such as rain, sleet, or snow. A little patience goes a long way on our roadways! *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

February 6

Today, many will gather together with friends and family to watch the Superbowl. Often times, these get-togethers will also include alcohol. In a given year, over one-third of Hispanic traffic fatalities were alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. But you can help make sure today's celebrations don't end in tragedy. If you see someone who has been drinking, volunteer to drive them home. Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk! *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

February 13

During 2009, there were a total of 33,808 traffic fatalities in the United States. This Valentine's Day — and every day — show your loved ones that you care about their wellbeing when they're riding in your vehicle. Take every step to ensure their safety, such as driving the speed limit and giving the road your full attention. *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

February 20

Tomorrow is President's Day. Both past and present, good leaders have always shared a desire to protect those who trust in them. Be a leader for your family and make sure your children are properly restrained. In 2006, 51 percent of Hispanic children killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up at the time of the crash. *You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

February 27

When you're driving, helpful devices can become harmful ones if you look away from the road to use them. Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Wait until you're stopped to use your navigation system, mp3 player, or cell phone! *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

March 6

During spring months, more bicyclists will be on the roadway, for both fun and transportation. Allow at least three feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist, look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space, and yield to cyclists at intersections. Plus, be especially watchful for cyclists when making turns and always keep an eye out for children. *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

March 13

St. Patrick's Day is Thursday. If you're traveling that evening, be very careful and on the lookout for drunk drivers. Nationwide, there were 10,839 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2009. You can be a lifesaver by offering a ride to someone's whose been drinking. Remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. You have the ability to make the streets and highways a safer place for your loved ones. Consider the consequences of every choice you make as both a driver and a passenger, and your actions may save them from harm.*

March 20

As the temperature warms, more motorcycles will be out and about, enjoying the spring weather. It can be easy to overlook a motorcycle, so drive with care and take extra time to look for motorcycles before changing lanes and turning in intersections. *As a driver, you have a great responsibility to protect yourself, your family, and all others sharing the roadway. Be accountable, be safe, and be in control for the sake of those you love.*

March 27

Teen drivers need guidance to become responsible and safe behind the wheel. In 2008, 1,429,000 drivers involved in police-reported crashes were young drivers. Set a good example for the teens in your life, teaching them the skills they need to mature into dependable drivers who obey the speed limit and always buckle up. *We must each do our part to make every journey safe for our children, friends, and family. Strive to always be a patient driver, considerate passenger, or careful pedestrian.*

PASTOR'S NOTES

Traffic Safety Message for Sermon

Last year, two tragic rollover crashes of church 15-passenger vans in Georgia and New York left 10 dead and 23 injured. The contributing factors in both cases were tire failure and the lack of seat belt use by passengers. **Let's work together to keep the members of our congregation safe when traveling.**

To begin with, seat belt use by van passengers is a *proven* way to reduce deaths and minimize injuries, for both children and adults. An unrestrained 15-passenger van occupant involved in a single-vehicle crash is approximately three times as likely to be killed as a restrained occupant. Also, if the correct size/capacity E-series commercial tires were installed and properly inflated and maintained, it might have helped avert these two devastating crashes.

Here are some safety tips to remember for 15-passenger van trips:

- Make sure the vehicle is properly maintained.
- Only travel with a driver who is fully trained and experienced in operating a 15-passenger van.
- Do not overload with more than 15 passengers. When the van is not full, sit in seats that are in front of the rear axle.
- Check to make sure that properly sized tires are being used.
- Before every trip, check the tires for proper inflation, and make sure there are no signs of wear. Correct tire size and inflation pressure information can be found in the owner's manual.
- Make sure the driver is well-rested and attentive.
- Cell phone use by the driver while the van is in motion should not be allowed, and drive time should be limited to eight hours per 24-hour period.
- Slow down if the roads are wet or icy because 15-passenger vans do not respond well to abrupt steering maneuvers and require additional braking time.
- Cargo should be placed forward of the rear axle and placing any loads on the roof should be avoided. Do not tow anything behind the van.
- Make sure you buckle up for every trip.

More information is available www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Shoppers/Resources/15-Passenger+Van+Safety.

For the safety of our church members, share this crucial information with all church travelers using 15-passenger vans for group transportation, including church daycare center van passengers and youth groups. *Your* commitment to traffic safety will help save lives and prevent injuries on our streets and highways.

Let's each do our part to make each journey safe for our children, friends, and family.