

A seasonal publication of SonRise Christian Fellowship

# THE CHIMES

Winter 2016

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### **The Mission Statement of SonRise Christian Fellowship**

*Bringing people into a personal  
relationship with Jesus Christ,  
gathering them together as a  
worshiping community,  
growing them up as his  
life-long disciples, and sending  
them out as ministers of the  
Gospel for the sake of the world.*

### **Service Times**

**Sunday Mornings**  
Traditional Service 8:30 am  
Contemporary Service 10:30 am  
Fuente De Vida 10:30 am  
Shine Youth Service 10:30 am

We wish you a....

Gospel



# CHRISTMAS

By Pastor Jerome Marroquin

*"I bring you GOOD NEWS of great joy that will be for ALL the people!" (Luke 2:10)*

We just witnessed one of the most contentious elections in the history of our nation. Following the November election, half the country cheered and celebrated, while the other half wept and protested in the city streets. Today some people are filled with relief and hopeful anticipation, while others are overwhelmed with fear and trepidation

about the future. Some are convinced the new administration will fulfill its promise to make America great again, while others dread the arrival of Armageddon itself. Which side is right? Who should we believe? Where shall we place our trust? Will the future be bright and prosperous . . . or will it be a dark and miserable dystopia?

Listen again to the song of the angels:

*"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born*

*to you: He is Christ, the Lord."*  
(Luke 2:10-11)

Notice the angel does not say this is good news for some people. This is good news for everyone: rich and poor, great and small, Republican, Democrat, and Independent! The Gospel is good news for all! Christmas is a powerful reminder that the future of our nation and the hope of the world do not rest in the hands of any human president. Hope for the future is not reliant upon any man-made institution or government, regardless of how powerful or economically sound it may seem. We simply cannot orchestrate our own salvation, no matter how hard we try, or how many campaign promises are made. No, the stunning message of Christmas is that the true hope of the world appears with the arrival of a fragile, new-born infant – an infant who is none other than the Son of God Himself:

*"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*  
(Luke 2:12)

The Gospel is something our merciful God accomplishes for us, not something we do for ourselves in our own human strength or wisdom. That's what makes Christmas so glorious.

*Continued...*

It's all gift: *"Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing it and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."* (Isaiah 9:7)

And the result of this good news is universal celebration and unanimous praise – something no human election could ever accomplish. Instead of demonstrations in the streets, there's a cantata in heaven:

*"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"* (Luke 2:13-14)

*"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."* (Habakkuk 2:14)

Friends, in the midst of a divisive world filled with uncertainty and bad news, this year we wish you a GOSPEL CHRISTMAS! There is born for you a Savior who is Christ the Lord! This is good news like none other, which no election can either spoil or enhance. Our flags and government and armies cannot save us. Not even the Supreme Court. Only the One who reigns from his Manger Throne!

This Christmas let's be bold to proclaim with our Master, *"Our Kingdom is not of this world" . . . "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."* (Phil. 3:20-21)

This Christmas as we gather once again with our loved ones, let's shout for joy with the angels, singing:

**HALLELUJAH!** *"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever!"* (Revelation 11:15)

Merry Christmas, everyone! And may the peace of Christ be with all the world.



### **Christmas Decorating**

*November 30 / December 1... 9am... Sanctuary*

### **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**

*December 2... 5:00 pm... Flbk Community Center*

### **SonRise Women's Brunch**

*December 3... 9:30 am... SonRise Chapel*

### **Fallbrook Christmas Parade**

*December 3... 5:00 pm... Main Street, downtown*

### **Fallbrook Chorale Concert**

*December 10... 3:00 pm... Sanctuary*

### **United Service, followed by**

### **All-Church Christmas Brunch**

*December 11... 10:30 am.. Sanctuary and CAC*

### **SonRise Preschool Christmas Program**

*December 14... 5:30 pm... Sanctuary*

### **Christmas Caroling**

*December 18... 3:30 pm... meet in CAC, then carpool*

### **Christmas Eve Service**

*December 24... 5:00 pm... Sanctuary*

### **Christmas Day United Service**

*December 25... 10:30 am.... Sanctuary*

### **New Year's Day United Service**

*January 1... 10:30 am.. Sanctuary*

# Wonderful Anticipation

By  
Rick  
Founds



Ahh, the infamous rotating Christmas Tree Color Wheel... very high-tech for its time. This fabulous invention would bath your reflective aluminum tree in an ever-changing array of color. I'm not sure of the statistics, but I'm certain this wonderful device burned down many a house in its heyday. We had one of these mechanical wonders. It was awesome.... and yes, it nearly caused a conflagration in our living room one Christmas Eve. Apparently, a large present had inadvertently been pushed up against it, so the wheel couldn't rotate. The high wattage lamp, barely inches from the plastic, overheated the blue segment and began the meltdown process. The horrible smell alerted my older sister and I mere moments before ignition. God is merciful.

We loved Christmas Eve, my beloved and mischievous, sister, Susie and I. (Her first name was Tanya, but growing up, we all called her by her middle name.) We would try our best to stay awake all night if need be, to catch Mr. Big Jolly Red Suit in the act of present deposition. We would do everything we could think of to pass the time... play every board game in the closet, tell each other stories, and draw pictures. Every so often, quietly sneaking out of the room, we would creep down the hall past our parents room, toward the living room, in hopes of catching Mr. "C" in the act. Discovering that he had not yet made an appearance, we would hide behind the couch in anticipation. As we watched and waited, we'd be mesmerized, as the room would slowly, hypnotically change from red, to green, to orange, to blue, (compliments of the amazing color wheel). Eventually we would drag our sleepy selves back to bed, only to fall fast asleep... once again missing the much anticipated arrival, as evidenced by the half eaten cookies, and an empty glass of milk... dang! Oh well, maybe next year... Jesus tells us to... *"Watch and look, for I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me..."* (Rev. 22:12) Unlike the aforementioned Jolly guy, Jesus will indeed be seen by all who eagerly await His arrival.



By Gayle Kott

*Lord, it's that time of year again  
Or do I mean already?  
Christmas seems to have snuck up  
on me this time  
But as I started thinking about  
gifts  
I still need to buy  
I began wondering  
What would You like for  
Christmas, Lord?  
You've given me so much  
My children and grandchildren  
The place I live  
The air I breathe  
Not to mention the whole  
salvation thing  
Not being separated from You*

*By my sin  
Is the greatest gift of all  
It would be more than enough  
Even if there was nothing else  
When I think about it  
I have been blessed beyond  
measure  
So what can I give You?  
I'd offer You my heart  
But You've had that for a while  
now  
And my obedience?  
Well, You know I try  
But I don't think it's a very  
practical gift  
Sometimes it's more of a process  
Than it should be  
So as I continue mulling this over*

*A couple of scriptures come to  
mind  
All You want of me  
Is to act justly,  
Show mercy  
And walk humbly with You  
And to love others  
As You have loved me  
Let that be my gift to You, Jesus  
Let my praise be the wrapping  
And my worship  
The ribbon and the bow  
You deserve so much more  
And my gift will be imperfect  
As am I  
Still,  
I hope it is pleasing  
In Your sight*

Micah 6:8

*"He has showed you,  
O man, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God."*

John 15:12

*"My command is this:  
Love each other as I have loved you."*



# Surviving the Holidays

...AFTER THE  
LOSS OF A LOVED  
ONE.

By  
Suzie  
Penman

I feel it as Halloween approaches; that feeling of dread. My mind knows what's happening, but I'm unable to push it away. The holidays - Thanksgiving and Christmas - bring negative, unhappy feelings to many people. But to people who have lost a loved one the holidays can be especially difficult.

I remember the happy traditions my family had when I was a child. Some of those same traditions I continue to practice even today. But many remain just happy memories. So why are Thanksgiving and Christmas so depressing to so many? For some it's not being able to provide what they feel their loved ones want and deserve. For some

the commercialism brings feelings of inadequacy. And for many it's the feeling of missing someone who is no longer with them. How do we find joy when we've lost our own sense of direction?

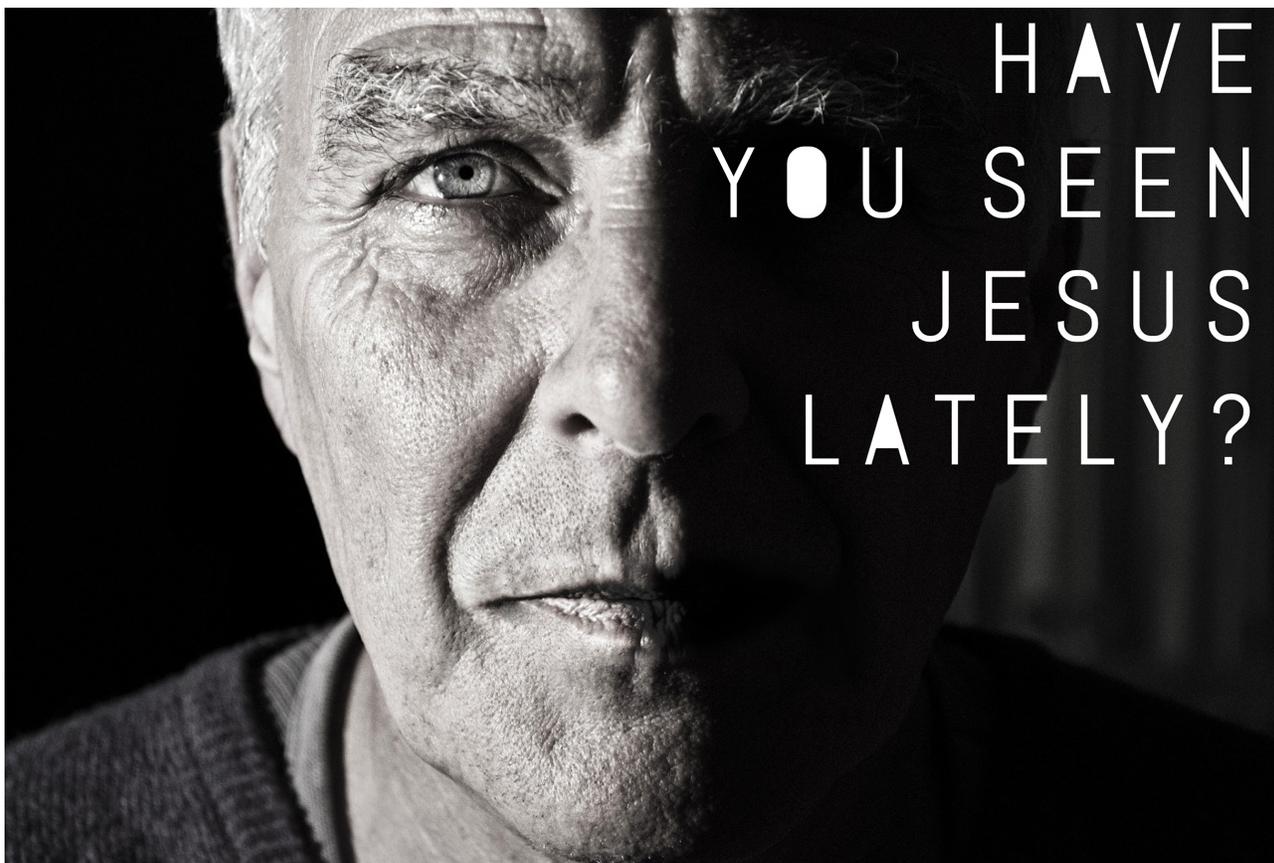
Personally, I turn to family and friends. If you're saying, "my family is too far away," or "my friends are busy with their own lives" then perhaps you need to be reminded of the greatest friend of all -- your Heavenly Father. During difficult times may we all remember just how much we are loved by God.

Perhaps it's just too hard to write the cards, decorate the house, or put up the tree. It's ok not to do those things. But don't forget that your church family

is here for you and ready to help you through this difficult season. Get involved in a group. Attend a luncheon. Go to a concert. Call someone. I know from experience how hard the holidays can be. Finding SonRise Christian Fellowship, becoming involved, making new friends, and keeping my tradition of attending Christmas Eve Candlelight Service have helped me survive the "dread" I still feel every year.

May we all remember what we are celebrating, and not focus on the expectations of others.

*Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your Son. May we not just "survive" the holidays, but let us rejoice and celebrate this wonderful gift!*



I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited ME, I was in prison and you came to Me." Matthew 25:36-40

And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

I simply write these two powerful Scriptures to tear away the veil that so many, today, find themselves hiding behind. It's very easy to show up to church on Sundays, or even volunteer at one of the more "comfortable" missionary outreaches, but when it comes to the stigma of going into a prison, fear, amongst many other worrisome thoughts, comes into play, not to mention that of judgment of what some might deem as the "dregs" of society, who are a menace to society. However, Jesus stated boldly in Matthew that those who went into pris-

on, indeed, visited Him. Then there are those who were at Jesus' left whom were rebuked with an eternal judgment, simply put, "depart from Me, you cursed into everlasting fire." If there was ever something to be fearful of, it would be that of Christ's eternal judgment.

My name is Kevin, and I've been in prison for twenty-four years. For the first thirteen, I was lost, completely engulfed in sin, with no cares or concerns of a brighter future or hope thereafter. I killed a man who preyed upon and molested me at a young age. I grew up in a stable home, yet I was lost and totally selfish. I had gone to church with my parents; yet, for me, it was for all the nefarious reasons, and by the time I reached nineteen, I found myself on the way to Folsom State Penitentiary. My fate, according to the world, had been sealed; howev-

er, Jesus had something else in mind. I just didn't know it.

My addiction to drugs increased. I harbored a lot of pain and resentments and had no clue as to how to deal with them. Alone, I sought acceptance from those around me. No sooner did I find that acceptance than I rose through the ranks of becoming a bona fide prison gang member. I was a validated skinhead, a title that my family would surely be ashamed of, yet I hid behind it as a twisted badge of honor.

Becoming so lost in the demented world, I soon found myself locked away in the famed Pelican Bay Segregated Housing Unit, or as we on the inside call it, the Special Housing Unit, S.H.U. I was given a sentence of "indeterminate", meaning that I would never again see past the concrete cubicle and razor wire that surrounded me.

I was deemed a threat to the safety and security of the institution. You're probably thinking by now that I deserved it, or that I made my bed and now must lie in it. But let me remind you, that's not what Jesus had in store. Locked away in seclusion, watching one year fade into the next, there didn't seem a reason to live for. After all, I was serving a life sentence and was sure to die alone in prison.

Out of the blue one night, I received a letter from a distant cousin, whom I hadn't heard from in decades. She began sharing with me the gospel of Jesus Christ, all of which I wanted nothing to do with. Yet, she persisted, and like the truth of the Word, it pierced the marrow of my soul, breaking the tough exterior of a skinhead. In 2004, I found myself drawn to my knees in that little concrete cubicle, alone, asking Jesus to forgive me of my sins and to come into my life. There's been no looking back since.

All the restrictions that society and prison had placed on me soon began to crumble. My indeterminate stint in Pelican Bay was no more. I began sharing the Word with other hardened inmate souls, and with prison officials, seeing their lives changed for eternity. I continued this ministry until 2011, when I was transferred to R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility in sunny San Diego.

This is where my new identity in Christ was nourished. Brothers and sisters in Christ, filled with hearts of love for God and love for the brethren, were evident from the very start.

I was being challenged and edified, and in turn, was edifying those coming in from the outside. It was all about Jesus and continues to be that to this day.

There is a dire passion for many who come into this place, and that passion is for Jesus Christ. After all, Jesus came to save the outcasts of the world, too, and to heal the sick, in need of the Great Physician. I share this because of the joy it is to see lives, miraculous healings, and a liberty that some never could have imagined.

In 2014, I was granted parole, and it's all to the glory of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, alone. Being a new creation has proven evident, and if it wasn't for the love, prayers and devotion of my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I could have easily still been locked away with no hope of any sort.

I encourage you - come visit Jesus in prison. After all, obedience is better than sacrifice. You will truly be changed and blessed, eternally, being assured that unfading crown of glory. May the love and peace of Jesus continue to manifest in your lives!

Your fellow servant in Christ Jesus,

Kevin

To read more stories like Kevin's, read the book, *"Plan B, When Your plan Fails And God's Prevails."*

**To find out how you can serve in the Kairos Prison Ministry, please contact Norm Leraas or call the church office.**

## What is Kairos?

The people of Kairos are called by God to share the love of Christ with those impacted by incarceration. Kairos is an ecumenical ministry that encourages Christians from various backgrounds to be Volunteers in this Christ-filled ministry.

Kairos programs offer to prison residents, their families, and those who work with them, the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ, and to grow in their faith and servant hood through Christian community.

## Our Mission

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women, and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

## THANK YOU SONRISE

*I would like to thank all the members of our church that have supported the Kairos program for nearly 14 years now. All the cookies they have baked and prayed over, the letters to the Kairos candidates and especially the prayers for the candidates and the Kairos volunteers. Each time I begged for cookies they came through even more than I expected. Beth Ann Murray and her preschool and Sunday School kids coloring the place mats and creating those gigantic posters of hand prints and foot prints that covered an entire wall in our chapel. Jerome and Greg always so supportive in announcing the need for cookies, letters and prayers for each Kairos Weekend.*

Thank you, Norm Leraas



# Cush or Cushy?

By Ryan Hunt

Do you know that the land of Cush is mentioned close to forty times in the Bible? I can't tell you what a joy it was to actually be in the land of Cush and watch my lovely wife talk with a young man named Tesfy who knew every reference to Cush – in the entire Bible! He was so excited to show her in his very own Bible each and every time that his country was mentioned. Cush is often thought to be today's Ethiopia and that is where we were visiting when we met this young man. We thought we were going to minister to Tesfy and the other teenagers at the school there, but they ministered to us and we were blessed to interact with so many who had nothing in their

lives so precious as their Bibles. Who, in fact, had nothing much else at all. It was amazing to watch Tesfy share his excitement and to see his deep love for the Word of God.

As the holiday season approaches I look around me now and see all the wealth and privilege we are blessed to experience here in Southern California. I also see the hustle and bustle beginning as we get going on our Christmas shopping. I can't help but think of that young man in Ethiopia who had only one outfit of clothing, no earthly possessions to speak of and didn't even know where his next meal was going to come from. Christmas gifts were not even on his radar at all.

It's so fascinating to me to watch those people who really have nothing ----except Jesus. Sometimes it seems that they are so much closer to the Lord because they don't have so much "stuff" distracting them like maybe we do. Our first world problems so often seem to focus on getting more stuff, protecting our stuff, maintaining our stuff, storing our stuff and then getting better stuff. We have to buy bigger houses so we have room for our stuff and we even have businesses based around storing our stuff!

I don't mean to bash the excitement of shopping season and the joy of giving gifts – or even of getting stuff – I like my stuff too and I love to give gifts to those I love. After all the

intent of giving one another gifts is to remind ourselves and each other of the ultimate gift that God gave to us when He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross in our place. I mean, that is the intent right? It's not just getting more stuff is it? Not just perpetuating our cushy lifestyle?

My parents have recently moved back to Ethiopia for their second long term engagement. Looks like it will be four or five years this time around. My little brother and sister may come back just in time for high school! That really gets me thinking too. If I had the choice between my cushy SoCal lifestyle or moving to the land of Cush, which would I choose?



Not sure any of us would actually choose Cush – living in Ethiopia is tough! I certainly don't relish the idea of living without reliable water or electricity (they usually both work about twice a week) – never mind the government cutting off my internet and cell phone service whenever they feel like it! Grocery stores that only have one or maybe two options for breakfast cereal may seem like a little thing, but that's only when you visit and it's a novel concept. Living with it daily makes you begin to realize how much we really do have here ---and how much we can do without!

Instead of just our living arrangements and area, what if the choice was actually being closer to the Lord instead of allowing my stuff to continue distracting me from an intimate relationship with Him? What if it actually comes down to simply obey or not obey? I think it really does – and sometimes that is a really scary concept. What if we give sacrificially – give God what is right not what is left – and then we can't pay our bills? What if we reach out to someone in need and they reject our offer of assistance – even reject us? What if we go on a short term missions

trip and have to step out of our comfort zone? Really scary concepts! Even scarier ..... What if God calls us to be a part of what He is doing right in our neighborhood and around the world – and we miss out on the blessing of joining Him because we are comfortable or too busy with our “stuff”?

What if we take a step of faith and move to Ethiopia in obedience to what the Lord is calling us to, and there are riots, killings, political unrest? That's what Mom and Dad are facing right now – and with an 8 year old and a 10 year old! – but they are experiencing such joy and fulfillment doing what God has called them to and being a part of what He is doing in Africa.

It reminds me of going to Disneyland with the family. As a father I love to plan the trip - figure out the best route and when we should leave, find great deals on hotels, search for the most unique places to eat and generally make sure the kids have the time of their lives. It's not really much of a vacation for me – it's a lot of work. When you're a kid though – what a trip! Just jump in the car and go. Dad takes care of everything! Too often I am still trying to be the dad and God is saying – just enjoy the journey. Let me

take care of everything! What freedom to not worry about the consequences, but just follow where He leads.

I am so grateful for such a wonderful example of obedience in my life. Every time I think of my parents I see obedience to God – even when He asks them to do some pretty outrageous stuff!

I would ask that you join me in praying for them. Mom is facing some significant health issues, the kids are still struggling to adjust and learn the language and Dad is having real challenges with his visa. He has already had to return stateside twice to work on the paperwork and I truly believe that is evidence of spiritual warfare – the enemy really doesn't want him engaged in this new project!



I would also ask you – as we enter into this holiday season – to always remember that the gifts, the nativity scene, the cross, the tree - all of it are simply signposts pointing the way to Jesus. Let us not focus on the signposts and miss the destination! May repeated occurrences

not diminish the reality of the fact that Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Dwell on that. Reflect on it and may the Lord richly bless you this season – not with presents but with His Presence.



By  
Gayle  
Kott

These days the world can seem very uncertain. The recent election felt vaguely reminiscent of the Civil War – I saw within my own extended family people turning against each other purely due to differences in ideology. We are bombarded with media images that assault both our senses and our sensibilities. It seems everywhere we look good is being called evil and evil good, and sometimes those who call themselves Christians act in a

most un-Christ-like manner. And yet...

I always pray before I write, because I want, as much as possible within my human limitations, to speak what the Lord would have me speak. This time was no exception, and I sensed the Lord calling me to encourage His beloved – that's you – in this season.

First and foremost, be assured that God is still on the throne, that He is in control. I know you believe that in

your head, but now is the time to believe it in your heart. He loves you fiercely and unconditionally, and never will He leave you or forsake you. I can't think of anything more encouraging than that.

In the midst of the chaos in this world, we need to look for the helpers. In every problem, every situation, there are people who rise above to help those facing tragedy or disaster.

These people aren't necessarily

celebrated, nor do they want to be. But they do exist. And I don't only refer to those who hurry off to provide relief after hurricanes, like the one that devastated Haiti, although I praise the Lord for them and their service. I'm referring to everyday people, leading their everyday lives. For example, after the Orlando shooting earlier this year, Jet Blue was giving free flights to Orlando to the families of the victims.

On one such flight, one of the attendants learned that the grandmother of a young man who had been killed was on board, so she passed around a piece of paper to the passengers as a sort of condolence card. The response was incredible. Not only did every passenger on board sign it, many wrote expressions of their sympathy and/or scriptures to comfort a complete stranger. In fact, the attendant had to find more paper to accommodate all of the responses.

The grandmother, heartbroken over her loss, was overwhelmed by the compassion shown her.

There are always stories about the evils done in the name of Islam. But what you don't hear are the stories of those who have given their lives to Christ, who begin leading underground churches in Muslim countries. And it isn't just Islam. There are many countries where Christianity is banned by the government, but it is flourishing nonetheless. I can't give specifics, but I know people who have worked in that field, and some who still are. And no matter how hard they try, no one can stop Jesus. His light shines in the darkest areas of our world.

Yet even knowing all of this, sometimes life's struggles get me down. When I feel discouraged, I take my own advice and look for two things - ways to

be kind, and for other people exhibiting kindness. And I see it everywhere. I see people opening doors for others, giving a kind word to those providing services to them - simple things, really. Yet these simple things can make someone smile, let them know they are seen and appreciated. People need kindness and compassion like they need oxygen. A case in point - recently I was having a trying day. By 'trying' I mean I kept trying but nothing was working the way I wanted it to. I stopped for a cup of coffee at Fallbrook Coffee Company to use the internet there and 'try' to bring order to some of the chaos I was feeling. After a while, I had given up and was leaving when one of the sweet baristas stopped me with a drink in her hand and asked if I would like a 'cara mia', as they had an extra one. I smiled at her, thanked her, and told her she made my whole day, which she did. I don't think I can honestly say that everything in my day went smoothly from that point on, but I can say both my mood and my attitude greatly improved. As Willy Wonka said, "So shines a good deed in a weary world."

Finally, Christmas is upon us, and the New Year. Many Americans stress over Christmas, and with all of the commercialism and expectations, that is understandable. But it isn't mandatory. We can still look

at it through children's eyes, if we try, if we dare. We can see the wonder and feel the awe, knowing that before the foundation of the world was laid, God had a plan to redeem us, to save us from ourselves and the enemy's grip. Christmas gives us the gift of salvation, wrapped in the innocence of a baby.

So take heart, beloved of God. He really does work everything for good, even when we don't see it and don't think we'll ever understand it. I leave you with this prayer:

*Merciful Father, we thank You and we praise You for all the many gifts You have given us. Thank You for this church, Your bride. I ask You, Lord, to rest Your favor on this congregation. Thank You that You know each of their unique needs, and I pray as Paul did for the church at Ephesus that out of Your glorious riches You may strengthen them with power though Your Spirit in their inner beings, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. And I pray that they, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that they may be filled to the measure of all of Your fullness. Now to You who are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to Your power that is at work within us, to You be glory and honor forever and ever. Amen.*

# One Special Christmas Tree

provided by God

By Judy Lindley

**M**y dad (Gus) loved to decorate our tree; he wanted it to be just perfect. First, the lights then the balls all neatly spaced, and then the garland was added just before the tinsel. The tinsel was the finishing touch; each strand of tinsel had to be put on the tree one by one, no bunches, no throwing the tinsel on the tree. Each of us took pride in having all the tinsel hung as evenly as possible on the garland. After Christmas, we removed each strand of tinsel, holding the strand in the

middle then replacing it on a cardboard holder, to save for the next year.

I remember one very special tree. It was about 1948, we were living in Virginia, and I was around 10 years old. Gus had to make a business trip to Duluth, Minnesota and he asked if I would like to go with him. I loved to travel with my dad; we always met very interesting people. I was to stay at my Mom's parent's home; I would not be with Gus. I think he was staying with his Mom and Dad. It was a few days before Christmas, and

we would be missing Christmas at home. That was OK with me. I loved Ma and Dad. They had a very small apartment above the old stables on the Hartley estate where Dad was the butler. Dad slept on a cot, in the hallway, so I could have his bed. He was so special, always taking care of me, never once did he say, she's just a kid, the cot will do. We would play cards, have tea and little sandwiches, Ma would tell stories. They had an old Mohair sofa that made me wiggle as we talked and read stories.





1950 Harold Kendall  
Judy's grandfather, "Dad"

Soon it was December 24, and no Christmas tree. I was so sad. Ma asked if it was very important, and of course, I said yes, the tree was very special at home. It was already getting dark and cold, near 0 degrees; we could see the snow slowly falling to the ground. It was a terrible night to be out walking. Ma said, "OK, let us go and get a tree; I know the gas station down the street has trees. Dad will get the ornaments out, as we go shopping." We bundled up in our heavy coats and hats, wrapped a scarf around our necks and over our mouths. It was about a two-block walk to the gas station. When we got there it was closed. What to do, I was so disappointed. Then Ma said, "He has trees left over. We will take one, and in the morning, we will come back and pay for the tree." This may not seem like a big deal, but if you knew Ma,

you would know this was very hard. She was very honest, and took pride in not taking advantage of anyone. We carried the little three-foot tree home. Dad had Christmas music playing on the radio, and hot cider, when we returned home. We decorated the tree, no garland no tinsel, only a few glass ornaments. However, to me it was the best tree ever.

God taught me many things that special Christmas. The importance not being wistful of what he had provided for us. God showed me true meaning of love and the value of character. I experienced the joy of a few Christian songs and cup of hot chocolate with my Grandparents who loved me. He gave me memories that I have never forgotten.

# Cain's Question

by Brad Fox

**Then the Lord said to Cain,  
"Where is your brother Abel?"  
"I don't know," he replied.  
"Am I my brother's keeper?"  
The Lord said, "What have you  
done? Listen! Your brother's  
blood cries out to me from the  
ground." Genesis 4:9-10**

**A**s one of the first questions in the Bible, Cain's question is a great follow up to God's original question of "Where are you?" for Adam and Eve. Two of the greatest questions one can ask of him/herself is "Where am I in life?" and "Am I looking out for my brother?"

On the face of it, Cain's question was an evasion of responsibility, not just for his murderous act, but also for his brother's care. In some sense, Cain is asking God if he's been assigned responsibility for keeping track of Abel's welfare. It's a question that God doesn't answer, and in fact, doesn't need to answer because Abel's blood screams the truth.

You can almost hear the disdain in Cain's voice. Funny, how, when we get caught with the "goods" the first words out of our mouth often seem to sum up our sin and serve as a self-indictment. As one who has a younger disabled brother, I understand Cain's superficial frustration. Why do I have to take care of his needs? Can't we just hire someone to take care of him. A caretaker?

But then, I wouldn't be acting as his brother.

It's not a trivial point. Because generally speaking, keepers or caretakers aren't personally invested or intimately involved with the people they care for. They're paid to care. Whereas a brother cares for another brother out of love and personal concern.

When serving others, we have to make an initial decision: will we treat them as caretakers, or family?

God was careful to guide early Israel regarding the treatment of their neighbors. In Leviticus 19:34 He told them "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God." That is a foreshadowing of Jesus statement of the two greatest commandments. It sounds to me as though God is demanding that we treat others as brothers/sisters.

Jesus had a great way of teaching, correcting and motivating people with His questions. Curiously, when a Jewish scholar asked Him who was his neighbor, Jesus responded with a related question, but one that turned the original question inside-out. Rather than limiting Himself to answering the scholar with a fixed description for "neighbor", Jesus asked him "Which of these acted as a neighbor?" This turned the question from a culturally-limited version of others' status in society, to a liberated version of caring for others like God cares for us. From "qualifying" for neighborly care, to a gracious, sacrificial model of brotherly love. From focusing on the worthiness of the neighbor to the character of the one who acted as a neighbor.



photo: [https://www.bibleodyssey.org/~media/Images/People/C/Ivory\\_Cain\\_Abel\\_Louvre.ashx](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/~media/Images/People/C/Ivory_Cain_Abel_Louvre.ashx)

But going back to the scholar's question, and transforming it slightly, we can ask in his stead, who is my brother? Well, for him, that was a no-brainer. Every refined Jew in ancient Israel knew who their brothers were by virtue of rigorously maintained genealogies. You were either "in" or "out" of the Jewish family by virtue of birth. The Jews before Jesus extended this to mean that if you weren't a native Israelite then God wouldn't bless you.

Today, we too are confronted with the challenge of deciding whether we give different treatment to near kin (brothers/sisters) and distant kin (neighbors, immigrants, foreigners). Jesus directly challenged us by saying "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them." Luke 6:32 This challenge is important when dealing with others who are not familiar or desirable to us for one reason or another.

The Jews had inclusion issues. They couldn't accept anyone who wasn't in the

blood line of Abraham. Jesus had a habit of lifting up people groups outside of the Jewish nation. He was trying to prepare Israel for the entry of Gentiles into God's covenant family, while at the same time trying to help the Jews "get over" their notion of cultural and hereditary exceptionalism. In terms of Abraham's family story told in Genesis 12, they would be "blessed to be a blessing." Deuteronomy 14:29 reinforces the Genesis commission: "and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."

In other words, the blessings of God would pass through them, but should not be selfishly kept by them. Jesus was being faithful to His own lineage: His great-grand mothers, Rahab and Ruth, were themselves foreigners from people groups outside the family of Israel. Yet God had welcomed them into the family and even made them exemplary patriarchs for His nation.

So God's instructions seem abundantly clear. We need not worry ourselves about defining who our neighbors are. Pretty much anyone, in need or otherwise, who comes into our life or our sphere of influence fills that role. What we need to concern ourselves with is acting like a neighbor, or more importantly, acting as a brother. The Leviticus and Luke verses cited above

suggests an even closer relationship; that of a brother or sister.

This is not an intellectual exercise. It's not a concept to be debated. It does involve thoughtfulness and intentionality. But mostly, it requires "doing" which entails assertiveness. When God punctuates the Leviticus verse with "I am the Lord thy God," it's pretty much the equivalent of "just do it." God said it; discussion closed.

What holds you and I back from obeying God in this fundamental mandate of scripture?

## 1. Many of us go through life waiting for God to act in our lives.

Waiting for Him to protect and nurture our families. To set things right in our world. To give us strong churches and honest politicians, etc. We don't reach out to neighbors and brothers because we're waiting for the Lord to reach out to us. A notable departure from this mindset was Isaiah. Although he knew he was unworthy of representing the Lord to the northern kingdom of Israel, that he wasn't "ready," Isaiah didn't

wait to be personally directed by God. He volunteered for the position without being asked. We all need a bit of Isaiah's initiative: "Here am I Lord, send me."

## 2. Some of us mistake "busyness" for accomplishment and obedience.

Or we use busyness as an excuse for not getting involved with our neighbors. Busyness has a way of eating up valuable time that God can use for changing us and the world. It also deceives us into thinking that we're getting something accomplished. But often our activities really don't do anything to add to the hastening of the kingdom. As a former teacher, I am well acquainted with busyness. Nothing like 32 middle school kids in a class to keep you occupied! But I always had to ask myself "were the kids learning?"

Perhaps a great deal of our busyness is directed to ourselves. In Western societies, particularly individualist societies like America, the focus of activities and values tends to be on one's self. In short, we are in the business of consuming. We think about how events affect us, not others. We spend much time ordering our personal world to make us happy and insulate us from uncomfortable life situations. We strive to make ourselves unique through our activities, possessions, and work. We may have little concept of how our group is faring, be it a family, a group of friends or our nation.

This mindset isolates us from the needs of others. We often try to escape awareness of others' problems. Their problems just seem too demanding, intractable and painful to deal with.

Jesus was busy too, but busy with His Father's work. Jesus was available, as when Jairus begged him to come heal his young daughter. He was also approachable, as when the woman sick with bleeding touched His robe in order to be healed. In short, Jesus had daily tasks given him by the Father, and some of those tasks required Him to allow for interruptions by people in need. Jesus didn't consume the world's goods for His own pleasure. He opened new behavioral possibilities for His followers who could help other sinners get what they desperately needed but couldn't obtain.

## 3. We're not aware of who needs help (or we do our best to ignore needs).

It helps to think about the perspectives of those in need. This requires we suspend our self-centered lifestyle to intentionally think about others. There are many different types of needy people, but the Bible gives us a helpful guide to what we might expect:

**Jairus:** Some people are desperate for help and willing to do whatever it takes to be healed by Jesus. They seek you out for help.

**The Gerasene demoniac:** Some people are so badly hurting that they won't be able to ask for help. They may even be repulsive or off-putting. We need to help them anyway.

**The woman at the well:** Some people are so blinded by their worldview that they can't see their own needs and can't even imagine asking for help. Engage them and find out about their life story. This engenders interest in yours.

**Zacheus:** Some people know that something is wrong in their life and just need a warm, welcoming invitation. They're waiting for you to extend yourself first. Their response can be extremely encouraging and uplifting.

**The Roman official:** Some people are "stuck" in their life circumstances but are nonetheless willing to do what they can to gain access to Christ. They may have to stay in their current culture, but can become God-honoring people nonetheless. Honor and affirm their search.

**Nicodemus:** Some people need time to process who Jesus is, and how their lives would be changed if they accepted help. They may be mulling over a way to confirm their doubts about their own faith. They need acceptance and encouragement too.

**10 Lepers:** Some people will be greatly appreciative for your help, while a many are not. Expect this as a basic fact of service. Help them anyway.

**Epileptic son:** Some people have obvious needs; It's our duty to heal them even if they can't express those needs. The Infirm man at the Pool: Some people know exactly what needs to be changed in their life, but can't get the healing done themselves.

**Lazarus:** Some people appear to be beyond help. It's our job to try to help them anyway.

#### 4. We're anxious about engaging others' needs, because we don't know where to begin. Of course!

We're designed to be insufficient. 2 Corinthians 3:5 says "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." Only Christ is sufficient. This is the way it's supposed to be.

William Blackaby wrote a curriculum called Experiencing God a couple of decades ago. It was instrumental in taking SonRise members to a higher level of kingdom work. A famous quote from his book said:

"When God invites you to join Him in His word, He has a God-sized assignment for you. You will quickly realize you cannot do what He is asking on your own. If God doesn't help you, you will fail. This is the crisis of belief when you must decide whether to believe God for what He wants to do through you.

At this point many people decide not to follow what they sense God is leading them to

do. Then they wonder why they do not experience God's presence and activity the way other Christians do.

The way you respond at this turning point will determine whether you become involved with God in something God-sized that only He can do or whether you will continue to go your own way and miss what He has purposed for your life." (pg 134)

"We forget that when God speaks, He always reveals what He is going to do – not what He wants us to do for Him. We join Him so He can do His work through us. We don't have to be able to accomplish the task with our limited ability or resources. With faith we can confidently proceed to obey Him because we know He is going to bring to pass what He purposes. Jesus indicated that what is impossible with man is possible with God. The Scriptures continually bear witness that this is true." (pg 140)

Blackaby continues: What is your current Crisis of Belief? What is it that God is setting before you to do and you need to take a step of faith and walk on the water? If you don't know, keep seeking Him in His Word and wait upon Him to reveal Himself to you.

And so we claim "(that we are confident) that he who began a good work in you (us) will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philipians 1:6. I join you in crisis, friend. If we're going to walk on water, we have to get out of the boat!

Love, Brad Fox



There comes a time in every child's life when things suddenly aren't as simple as they once seemed. Here's how you can help kids in their journey as they deal with the concept of death.

Here are few helpful hints to help your child deal with a family loss.

1. Use Simple, concrete language. Remember children view the world literally. Use basic and simple concrete concepts to explain death.
2. Avoid euphemisms. Metaphors and euphemisms confuse children. So don't explain to your children that a grandmother is sleeping or our grandfather is lost. They literally think they are sleeping so a child may be afraid to sleep, or they need to go find a loved one who is lost.
3. Stop, look, and listen. After death, give a grieving child undivided attention when feelings connected to bereavement emerge. Let a child express sadness, anger, or even guilt. As soon as the child tries to

share feelings, stop what you are doing immediately and focus on the child.

4. Give ample reassurance. A child's grief is colored by fear. They fear abandonment. They fear that they also may pass away. They fear that they caused the unfortunate outcome. When a parent has died, they fear the oth-

er parent will pass away as well. Children need constant, loving reassurance that the surviving family will be intact and that the transition to a heavenly presence is part of our faith.

5. Be a role model. Death and grief give you a unique opportunity to be a role model for children. Be emotionally genuine about your grief. Words cannot disguise what lies in the heart.

6. Emphasize God's love. Faith can be a great source of comfort to a child. Rather than speaking about God's will and His plan for us all, emphasize God's love. Love is a concept that appeals to even the youngest child. Children can be reminded gently, God loves us and wants to help us. We can bring all our fears and concerns to God in prayer. God will help us and by responding sensitively to children, you'll ensure they develop the coping skills they need to understand, manage, and respond to loss. Take time to help children cope with death, and make it possible for them to have a healthy and faith driven bereavement.

#### WHAT TO SAY

\*Accident-Something awful happened. Two cars struck each other and a loved one died. His body was hurt so badly it stopped working.

\*Terminal Illness-Some people who get sick just don't get better. Instead they get sicker and sicker until their bodies get worn out and stop working.

\*Old Age-After people who have lived a very long time their bodies wear out and stop working.

\*Miscarriage and stillbirth-Sometimes, but not very often when a baby is growing inside it's mother, sometimes God calls the child to heaven earlier than we expect. A baby may stop growing and God needs to take over. We don't always understand why these things happen, but God is in charge and in His mercy it was the best outcome.

My sweet friend's, don't be afraid of death or the suffering that comes with it. The Bible reveals that suffering has its place in our lives, even Hebrews 2:10 explains that Jesus was made perfect through suffering. What I learned through the recent experience of my Daddy's passing is that this suffering is part of the blessing that Christ has given us all.

In my years at SonRise we as a community have gone through this with our friends and family. We as a Church community have lost, young and old, and in my time with you I've never met any of our Church family who were angry. In each instance we found intimacy with Jesus in the midst of our grief.

I love you and would never trade our shared path since the closeness we together have experienced with my family, and our Church, have mirrored my love and the memories I have of my Daddy.  
Love, Beth Ann

# Childrens Ministry Happenings

## PRESCHOOL

Thank you to all who supported our Preschool through our Mixed Bags Fundraiser. Your generosity helps us provide an exceptional program for our kids.

Our Preschool parents enjoyed our Annual Thanksgiving Feasts in the Chapel. It's always a joy to watch the kids perform a special song for their parents and give them a unique handmade keepsake they'll treasure forever.

Our Preschool Christmas Program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, at 5:30 pm in the Son-Rise Sanctuary. Dessert Fellowship will follow in the Preschool playground area.

## CHILDRENS MINISTRY

See's Candies orders are in! If you haven't yet picked up your order, please stop by our table after Sunday Services. Again, many thanks to those who support our ministry through our fundraisers.

In His Service,

*Beth Ann*

Director of Preschool & Children's Ministries

## AWANA

What a great start to our ministry year! Our highest attendance day so far has brought 91 youth, ages 3 years through high school, from our church and community to SonRise. Our program has continued to grow and expand with our largest Jr High and High School groups to date. Praise the Lord!! Our 3rd through 6th grade group got off to a slow



start due to the change in material, but with the help of parents, student leaders, and small group leaders, we have found our rhythm and are going strong. A special thank you to Niki Hunt who has been helping us in the nursery. She watches the children too young to participate while moms and dads get to volunteer their time with older children and clubs. If you, or someone you know, are interested in joining in on the fun or volunteering contact Jessica Ortiz at [jessicaortiz419@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaortiz419@gmail.com) or 760-546-3660.

## LOS AMIGOS

Los Amigos is our Children's Ministry's outreach to the Hispanic community of Fallbrook. Each Tuesday during the school year, we pick up a group of children

from 2nd through 6th grade for after-school tutoring and mentoring.

We have 11 students who thoroughly enjoy spending one-on-one time with our tutors. For many of these children, this is the only time an adult will give them their undivided attention.

We also take them on several field trips throughout the year. Our next field trip is to the Painted Earth ceramic studio in Temecula. They look forward to making a hand painted Christmas gift for someone special.

We are in need of additional tutors this year. Would you consider blessing the life of a child with your time? The children all speak English, and truly enjoy coming to our campus each week. We meet every Tuesday from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Contact: Charlene Mann at (760) 533-6672 for more information.



*Many months ago I wrote a tribute to my father and his accomplishments in the Navy and his commitment to his family. My sweet father went to be with Jesus this past week. His testimony to all is that he loved his wife and family with all his heart. He also loved his country and served as a patriot and a hero as the article expressed. My dad is a real hero like no other. But he was foremost a husband and father. And a great one at that. I read this article about my father all the time and it never gets old. My father was in the hospital for over a week before he left this earth. What I learned about love is how my mother stayed by his side and never was shaken by his journey to enter into God's world. Thank you church family for loving us through this whole journey. Love, Beth Ann*

## I Have 2 Fathers



I asked Jesus into my heart at a very young age, because my parents made sure God was always in my life, even before I was born. I was taught that God was

my Father and heaven was my home. I knew my Dad was my Dad because of his genuine Christian lifestyle he led. He always chose to walk in the light.

You would never know my dad's accomplishments because of his humble character, but I charge you to Google his name. He is an amazing Husband, Father and Naval Admiral.

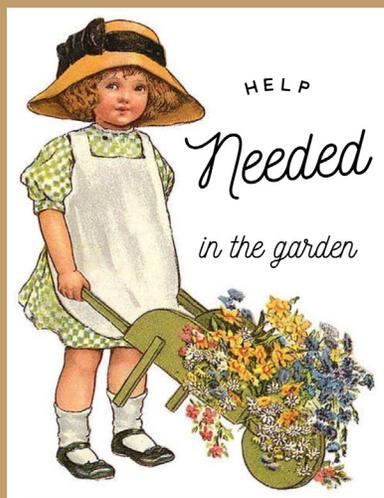
My Dad never hid his feelings and emotions. He always told each one of his children how much he loved them everyday. He taught us we must choose our own paths and make our own dreams come true. He quietly stood alongside each one of us with unconditional love, acceptance and appreciation, and proudly watched us grow. He helped me on my journey of life, reaching into the depths of my own being, opening up my heart to real love, feeling the beauty of God's creation, experiencing real joy and loving life that is in all of us.

My father has taught me many lessons in my lifetime. They are responsibility, skills, taking risks, self-awareness, priorities, courage, independence, imagination, acceptance, gratitude, regret, success, patience, vulnerability, inner peace, contentment, exploration, God consciousness, and finding joy in everything.

My Dad is the perfect dad to experience who our Father in heaven is...someone to depend on completely, has absolute understanding, total support and love forever. That's my Dad and I love him more than words could ever express. I love you Dad, Beth Ann

### L. RICHARD MYERS, REAR ADMIRAL, USN (RET.) "MOOSE"

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Date of Designation                  | June 1957   |
| Dates of Active Duty                 | 2 Sept 1954—31 Aug 1982   |
| Total Flight Hours                   | 5700  |
| Carrier/Ship Landings                | Fixed wing: 1267  |
| Approx. Flight Hours                 | Jet: 5600 / Prop: 1000 / VF/VA: 5600  |
| Combat Tours                         | Vietnam<br>VF-51, USS Hancock (CVA-19), Jan-Oct 1967<br>VF-51, USS Bon Homme Richard (CV-31), Jan-Oct 1968  |
| Aviation Commands                    | CO, VF-33, Jul 1969-Jun 1971<br>Commander, Carrier Air Wing 17, Oct 1972-Jun 1974<br>Commander, Fighter Wing ONE, Jul 1974-Aug 1975<br>CO, USS Truckee (AO-47), Jan 1976-May 1977<br>CO, USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), Nov 1978-Jun 1980<br>Commander, Naval District Washington, D.C.,<br>Sep 1981-Jul 1982   |
| Combat Awards                        | Silver Star / 2 Legion of Merit / Distinguished Flying Cross / Meritorious Service Medal<br>15 Air Medals   |
| Duty Assignment Chronology           | 3/56-6/57 Naval Flight Training, Pensacola, FL and Kingsville, TX.<br>6/57-1/61 Fighter Squadron 142, NAS Miramar and aircraft carrier deployments.<br>1/61-1/64 Fighter Squadron 124, NAS Miramar, CA.<br>1/64-7/65 Carrier Division NINE, NAS North Island and aircraft carrier deployments.<br>6/65-6/66 Naval War College, Newport, RI.<br>6/66-12/68 Fighter Squadron 51, NAS Miramar, CA and carrier combat deployments.<br>12/68-6/69 Fighter Squadron 121, NAS Miramar.<br>7/69- 6/71 CO, Fighter Squadron 33, NAS Oceana, VA.<br>7/71-6/72 Naval War College, Newport, VA,<br>6/72-9/72 Fighter Wing ONE, NAS Oceana, VA.<br>10/72-6/74 Commander, Carrier Air Wing 17, NAS Oceana, VA. And USS Forrestal (CVA-59).<br>6/74-8/75 Commander, Fighter Wing ONE, NAS Oceana, VA.<br>9/75-12/75 Black Shoe Ship Training, Virginia Beach, VA.<br>1/76-5/77 CO, USS Truckee (AO-47) NX Norfolk, VA.<br>6/77-9/77 Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA.<br>9/77-10/78 Aircraft Carrier Ship Operation Material Readiness Schools, Idaho Falls and Norfolk.<br>11/78-6/80 CO, USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), Norfolk, VA., and deployed to COMSITHFLT.<br>7/80-9/81 Commander Naval Striking Support Force—Southern Europe.<br>9/81- 8/82 Commander, Naval District Washington, D.C.<br>8/31/82 Retired from US Navy Active Duty. |
| Summary of Significant Career Events | 2900+ flight hours in all series of the F8 Crusader<br>1267 (one-at-a-time) carrier landings in fleet strike aircraft<br>Shot down Mig-21 in aerial combat over Vietnam on 26 June 1968   |



We now have 10 areas planted, 8 are in need of a caretaker. Less than a ½ hour a week will keep each area weed free. In time, as the plants grow you may need to do a little trimming.

During the hot weather check to see if they need water.

Select a section you would like to maintain. Then let Judy Lindley or Bev Tucker know the section you will help maintain.

Section 2: The section by the upper driveway. (Adjacent to the stairs leading from upper driveway to the office.)

Section 4: The planter box near the entrance to the Chapel.

Section 5: The small triangle as you walk towards the front door. (Near flag pole)

Section 6: The planter on the left of the exit driveway with the Aloe Vera.

Section 7: The 2nd planter on the left of the exit driveway. (Near the southeast corner of the Wilson Center)

Section 8: The strip on the right of the exit driveway with the bird of paradise.

Section 9: The lantana next to the fence across from the Kitchen and the Wilson Center.

Section 36: Two planters, one on each side of the fruit stand.

Contact **Judy Lindley** 760-445-6895 [judithlindley12@gmail.com](mailto:judithlindley12@gmail.com) or **Beverly Tucker** [bshyin@roadrunner.com](mailto:bshyin@roadrunner.com).

**Our Garden Facebook. Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/310655792633642/?fref=nf>



Grief has a way of shaping you and turning your attention away from the busyness of life to what really matters.

People in today's fast-paced culture do not stop long enough to contemplate the significant questions of life.

What is important in life?

Look at the big picture. Your life on earth encompasses a short time frame when compared to eternal life. You are an eternal

being. You are made to live forever. Keep this in perspective.

So the question best asked is, what is important in this life that will extend into eternity?

Dr. Joseph Stowell emphasizes the importance of living today in light of the world to come: "When you really embrace the world to come and bring it back into the world of your own life, everything is radically rearranged. One of the things that is rearranged is your values. For instance, this world tends to value self, tends to value things, and tends to value accomplishment and personal success.

"When you're really committed to the world to come and understand the depth and importance of it, you begin to value other things—like people. People are the only things going on to eternity. So I tend to value my children differently; I tend to value my neighbors differently; I tend to see the people I work with differently. I see them in light of their own eternal destiny."

Do not be uninformed about life's significance.

"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart" (Ecclesiastes 7:2).

*Living God, teach me to open my heart and embrace the knowledge that life after death is an important reality that must be acknowledged in my daily life. Help me to live my life in light of eternity. Amen*

### Grief Share: From Mourning to Joy

GriefShare offers support, friendship and sharing for people who have lost a loved one. We meet on Mondays at 1pm in the Fireside Room. This is a very loving and Christian based series which follows a DVD program as well as personal relationships.

**GriefShare** - Mondays, at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Please contact Jan Hilton at the Church Office for more information. 760.728.5804



*deeper still*

HEALING  
ABORTION-WOUNDED  
HEARTS

By  
Miriam  
Kirk

On the last weekend in October 2016, The Deeper Still – Fallbrook team held their 5th weekend healing retreat for those with abortion wounded hearts. Each previous retreat has had its own flavor as God knitted together just the right group of women He intended for sharing their healing, but this retreat was unique and was a milestone.

From the time the local chapter of Deeper Still was formed, the team has been praying to be able to include men participants at the retreats along with the women. Finally this fall the team found a facility that could accommodate men as well as women. More men were added to the team, including a man

who traveled from Pennsylvania with his wife. He had experienced his own healing retreat in Tennessee, the founding location, and had been back to Tennessee to facilitate there. His coaching was invaluable for the new men's team. Along with the new location, new team members, and ministering to the men came an extra measure of spiritual warfare. The team always goes to the retreat location on Thursday to set up the meeting area and to spend time in spiritual preparation for the participants who arrive on Friday afternoon. Two women guests, a mother and daughter, called to cancel while the team was heading up to the retreat facility. Arriving

at the location, the team found their meeting room and some of the bunkhouses were double booked with a youth group until Friday morning. Through the gracious cooperation of the youth group and another group expected to be there, the team was able to get access to the meeting room to set up and prepare on Thursday. The youth group left Friday morning, but the cleaning staff would not be able to have the dorms ready in time for the Deeper Still guests' arrival, so many team hands commandeered the camp's cleaning equipment to clean showers and bunkrooms and made up 14 beds.

*Continued...*

Another woman reluctantly cancelled a little after 3:00 pm on Friday. A fourth woman did not show. So there were 11 women and 3 men, one of whom was attending with his wife as they had experienced an abortion together. On Friday night the guests break out into groups where the participants can start to tell their stories. According to the men, the male team members were so moved by the men's stories, tears were flowing throughout the room, especially during one man's story that was very tough to hear.

Saturday is a day filled with much restoration and newfound freedom. One of the members of the men's team is a pastor and is married to a long time team member. He has supported the ministry from the beginning and has come to each retreat to cook bacon on Saturday mornings. But he's always been skeptical about how this would work for men. Sometime during the day Saturday he approached the Deeper Still director with a big smile on his face and with boyish excitement – a light had gone on inside him and he now got it. He recognized the retreat works the same for men as it does for women.

A week after the retreat weekend, the director invited the participants into an e-conversation to share.

From one of the men:  
"Hi! I was wondering when I

*I am bursting at the seams with my hope, faith and love renewed. Almost immediately I was able to stand boldly with confidence in the new found Truth I experienced. I will never be the same."*

*would hear from you. I lead a Bible study on Friday mornings and yesterday I was asked about the retreat and I shared with no shame about the retreat and why I was involved. It was awesome!"*

From A. "I wanted to let everyone know that you ALL had a big part in changing my life forever! Thank you so much for all your prayers, all your time, showing me Jesus' love in a tangible way, pouring your love and compassion into each of us. Last weekend was truly life changing and an experience that I will never forget. I feel so blessed to have shared a moment in time with each and every one who was there. I am one lucky girl!"

From S. "Where do I start? The Lord used every single one of you in some way, shape or form to bless me. I am bursting at the seams with my hope, faith and love renewed. Almost immediately I was able to stand boldly with confidence in the new found Truth I experienced. I will never be the same."

From G. "This morning I was working through some questions for a small group I am in at church. The question was – How has a difficult situation caused you to look closer at God's Word? I was going to

*share about something besides my abortions; then it hit me I DON'T NEED TO BE ASHAMED! I have known I am forgiven for years, but the realization that I don't have to be ashamed hit me anew at the retreat. If I get the opportunity to share I am going to and hopefully God will use this to help others."*

While the primary purpose of the weekend is to free the participants of years of pain, shame and regret, Deeper Still stresses that they are not just being healed **from** something, but are being healed **to** something. God will use their newfound freedom to share and minister to others. Already those fruits are apparent:

On Monday, B. shared: "I have experienced much freedom since the retreat and confirmation. I believe going through the post-abortion recovery process has helped me to accept the call God has on my life. Going through forgiveness has touched me deeply and has increased joy in my life. God has continued to confirm many things sown into my life over the weekend."

Continued...



So if  
the Son  
sets you  
free,  
you will be  
free  
indeed.

And this is what she sent on Thursday: “Wanted to share with you this morning my very exciting news. After our retreat I was stirred and seeking the Lord on how to begin sowing healing into our community in a small, subtle but significant way. I had a meeting this morning with (her city) and they have agreed to allow the local Pregnancy Center to plant 8 trees at one of our local parks during Sanctity of Human Life week. As part of our activities for the week, we will have a tree planting memorial for lives lost to abortion. The City is going to do all the ground prep and after care. They will put the trees next

to where they need to go at the park and when we arrive we just need to put them in the ground and take a moment to reflect on the impact abortion has had in our Nation. I will be rejoicing in my heart on the healing it will bring to the families that participate.”

And from the wife of the couple who attended: “I am happy to say that my husband and I shared with 2 of our friends and come to find out that our brother in Christ went through an abortion while he was in high school. Our testimony has allowed him to open up and talk about it and

his unresolved feelings of shame and regret but God!! God has allowed us to minister to him and to share on God’s loving forgiveness. Please keep him in prayer and maybe the Lord will open the doors for him to go to this amazing beautiful retreat one day. My husband is now free to share and minister without any shame. God is definitely working! “

The Deeper Still team has been blessed to see the healing that has taken place in the women and now have been humbled and honored to see how it takes place in the men. They also observed the healing that takes place between men and women when they attend together. Two women said, in the midst of their own pain and grieving, it had never occurred to them the men would feel the same. The women were able to forgive the men and were encouraged by seeing good Godly men.

Although the start of the weekend was rocky it was an absolutely beautiful retreat! Once again, God has done an AMAZING healing work. The men’s team is in place and is ON FIRE. And with new lives freed, God is truly raising up an army to heal more abortion-wounded hearts.

# SonRise Womens Ministry

SonRise Womens Ministry has both Thursday morning and evening Bible Study groups called **WOW Women of the Word**. We're currently taking a short holiday break, then starting again in January with two new studies. The Thursday 9am study in the Chapel, will be Kim Laliberte's *The Acts Project: Called to a Life of Power*, and the 7pm evening study in the Fireside Room, is yet to be determined. Both will begin Thursday, January 12, 2017. In the meantime, please join us for our Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 3, at 9:30 am. Bring a friend! Announcement: Our Thursday morning WOW group needs a babysitter from 9-11 am. This is a paid position! Contact Kathy Sears at (760)473-8209.



*Amazed  
Beyond  
Measure*

By  
Kathy  
Sears

Ladies, imagine a place where you can be refreshed spiritually, mentally and emotionally. A place that has walking paths around a lake and beautiful landscaping. A place where you can fellowship with friends while soaking in natural hot springs. A place that has a dining room with the most delicious meals. That is how 25 of us women were blessed at Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center!

The theme for this year's retreat was "Amazed Beyond Measure" from Mark 6:51. The conference focused on

what it meant to be drawn in the boat with Jesus and then out on the water to do the impossible! Many came away from this retreat with a deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus because of what they learned and the personal time of prayer.

Another part of this retreat that is very important for us as sisters in Christ is the fellowship that takes place. We take advantage of the opportunity to leave behind our family schedules, work or just life's business to spend time with one another. Time to support or encourage one another. Time to

pray for one another. Time to build relationships. This is what strengthens the body of Christ!

SonRise Christian Fellowship Women's Ministry is already looking ahead to next year's retreat. What does God have in store for us next year? What does He have in store for you? Wherever we go, whatever we do, we hope that you will be a part of it. This is a great opportunity for you to possibly make new friends and build relationships, receive prayer and encouragement and come away refreshed with God's love, joy, and peace.

**B**ack in 2014 our church was given a new AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To make this \$1,200 machine useful, we needed a special powerful battery, some non-reusable paddles and training. Somehow I became the person to get this done. (You should know that it is mounted in the SW corner of our “Narthex” — Christianese for lobby. Around once a month, I check it, and also mentally go through every step that should be performed in a medical emergency. I want to be ready in case someone is in distress and I’m the only one around. And, in a fact you will later see to be pertinent, a few days after our instructional meeting I went in for bovine valve replacement surgery.

“Do you still live on N. Stagecoach Lane in Fallbrook?”

“Why, yes I do.”

“Have you ever had MRSA?”

“No, I have never had methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus.”

The next day I was informed that a six mm spot had showed up in my brain. I believed that to mean they had detected a spot of brain tissue dead from oxygen deprivation. More tests followed: touch your nose, touch your ear, touch my finger, smile, stick out your tongue, pee in this cup, eat your soup.

## *Mythology Meets Sci-Fi*

By Jerry Maurer

A couple of years later, On August 2, 2016, I played pickleball for a couple of hours. When I got home, I sat down in a comfy chair with my trusty laptop to take care of some business. I became exceedingly sleepy and would nod off for a few seconds after a few minutes of typing. I noticed my right hand was not cooperating, but I kept typing anyway. I wanted to prove I could type while sleepy. Here is a copy of an actual sentence I tried to type: “Severalk girlls read thhe bool.”

Then I asked myself to speak aloud. Shockingly, some of my words were garbled. I tried the same sentence again: still slurred. I quickly called 911. I answered the dispatcher with the single word, “Stroke.” I was so thankful to not be worried or anxious. I was completely calm. Twenty minutes later an emergency vehicle arrived and a half hour after that an ambulance.

Once in the emergency room, a neurologist and a teleconference doctor examined me. (“Stick your tongue out...smile...raise your hands...talk...”) Adele joined us and we were sent to Room 4119 where nurse Ann asked a series of questions. I decided to answer in full, distinct sentences, just because I could.

“What is your full name and birthday?”

“My name is Jerrold Maurer and my birthday is 9/13/49.”

The prevailing theory was that a small chunk of plaque broke off somewhere in my circulatory system and came to a stop in my brain. That meant I would now be prone to future strokes and heart attacks without warning.

At home I looked up the stroke acronym FAST (Face [smile droops], Arms [raise both, one drifts], Speech [difficult], Time [is of the essence]). Maybe FAST was in the 6mm.

Two months and one day later I walked onto the pickle ball courts in Oceanside. Jeff and I won our first game and were waiting to play again.

I sat in front of court six and watched a mixed doubles match. After a few minutes I felt light-headed and what seemed like seconds later woke up looking at the lights in the ceiling of an ambulance. I heard loud Darth Vader-type breathing and soon realized that the deep, masked breathing was mine.

A man was asking for my name but I was concentrating on breathing and felt that was more important than answering. After many seconds he asked again. I told him I was Jerry and asked what his name was. I then felt it important to give Adele’s phone number to my new friend Tim. My next thought: I’ve had another stroke and probably won’t get to play pickleball or volleyball again. Then I thought, Well, at least I won my last game!

From the ER it did not take long to be admitted into the ICU. I learned that an AED had jolted my heart, once at the courts, and again by the EMT's. The nurse also volunteered a little fact, "Almost all people admitted after AED use in the field are on oxygen, and many are intubated. And here you are, sitting, looking fine, and breathing on your own." That is when she started calling me "miracle boy."

An angiogram revealed that the arteries around my heart were "beautiful." Further testing showed my ventricles were not contracting with good timing, so doctors decided that they would implant an AICD (Automatic Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator) under my skin not far from my heart.

Afterwards the surgeon warned me, "No more pickleball for you for four weeks." (Yeah! I could play again after all.)

I was scheduled for discharge 26 hours after my heart stopped. The next morning I drove out to thank those who saved my life and find out what took place in the missing minutes.

Here's what happened: I remember letting my head fall forward immediately before I blacked out. My oxygen-deprived brain must have told my head to go back to open the airway. With my head too far back, I made a snoring sound which caught the attention of Jan who thought I was sleeping, but Lynlee knew better and had Patrick, sitting a few yards to my left, carefully tilt me back onto the grass while she called 911. Someone told Jan start the timer on her phone.

Shawn, playing on court six, noticed the commotion and told his wife, Cori, an emergency room RN, that her help was needed. Cori checked for my breathing and pulse. She found neither. She began CPR and told an onlooker to get the AED stored about 150 yards away. Mike, already in the parking lot, hurried to get it. Though Cori noticed my color return, she saw my unfocused eyes. She placed the paddles on my chest and back, and at the AED's audio direction, asked everyone to stand back. The machine shocked my heart into a more normal cadence, and she continued to compress on my chest with great force.

The ambulance came almost exactly five minutes after

the call and the EMTs took over about a minute later. They used their AED in an attempt to shock my heart back into a proper rhythm.

The month before all this happened the club held a tournament. In preparation, someone suggested the battery in the AED be checked. It was dead, so a replacement was secured and installed.

Chris Timme, Pam Hilton, Betty Falls, Greg Coppock, a lady at the market and others have stated, "God is not done with you yet!" Hearing that after having a heart stoppage gives one more than just pause. So I have decided that in the foreseeable future the smart thing for me to do is stop doing things to help others! Because...you know, He might be done with me then and... Actually I will gladly jump in to serve because after two-thirds of a century here I know life is far more fun when you are in His will.

If the clot from the heart stoppage had happened when I was alone, if I hadn't made that snoring sound, if there hadn't been an ER nurse fourteen yards away, if there hadn't been an AED, if the battery hadn't just been replaced, if the ambulance, instead of being five minutes away, had been fifty minutes away as it was in August, no one would be writing this story.

I suppose some would claim, "What a bunch of coincidences!" or "You sure are lucky!" Yet others would say, "The Lord is watching over you!" But know this: through it all I was not worried, not anxious, not distraught, not obsessed with death and with no feeling of impending doom.

The number of people I have thanked is still growing. Those who were bold enough to tell me they prayed for me just outside the pickleball courts and those who prayed for me when they heard I was in trouble have my eternal thanks. God held me while people prayed. How else could I have been so calm through it all?

With a bovine valve in my heart and a St. Jude computer in my chest, am I where mythology meets Sci-fi? Part Minotaur part Cyborg? Or am I simply a man who has been blessed? You get to make up your mind.

One last thing: The first name of the ER nurse at the courts was not Angel, but her last name is Church!



Jerry showing gratitude to Cori Church, RN who performed CPR on him while awaiting the ambulance.

As Americans, we have certain freedoms which are easy to take for granted, including the freedom to speak openly about Jesus. It's true not everyone in this country wants to hear about Him, but at least it isn't illegal. Many parts of the world don't enjoy this freedom, so praise the Lord for people like Alan S., who still make it possible to learn about our Savior in some of those places.



By  
Gayle  
Kott

Alan's summer began by teaching Introduction to Christian Theology to a group of new team members of the ministry he serves in Florida. (The name of the ministry is being withheld for Alan's safety.) Over the last 41 years Alan has taught this class 50 times. The class went well, as it has for the last several years, in large part due to his talented and dedicated assistants.

Ever since his kidney cancer surgery 9 years ago, he feels every class he teaches and every opportunity for evangelism is a wonderful gift of God's grace.

Only four days after the conclusion of his classes in Florida, Alan was privileged to serve as the main speaker at a 5 day teacher training conference in two undisclosed locations in Asia. Underground teachers from various parts of the country gathered in both cities, some traveling as far as 2500 miles by train to attend. Most of the participants currently teach at either home schools, or at small schools begun by unregistered churches.

It was a very physically demanding trip for Alan, who has been in ministry for 47 years. He dragged his luggage through seemingly endless airports and carried heavy loads up and down steep narrow stairways, and raced over uneven pavement trying to keep up with younger team mates. The experience left him with a sore back and aching knees for weeks after he returned home. However, he felt it was an honor and a privilege to serve those brave teachers, and more than worth the personal cost.

Here are a few comments received from some of the teachers who attended: "Looking forward to

seeing the possible future changes in our country's public schools."

"Learned more about evangelism, discovered my own direction to serve. Will try to spread the gospel for the rest of my life and be a good witness."

As valuable as that ministry was, his team's goal is always to find ways to reach public school teachers. To that end, Alan has been an integral part of a team of four writers who have written a curriculum for the International Schools Project, designed for use in many different countries, including some which are predominantly Muslim.

Originally this was geared toward junior high age students. Now, however, they are adapting the text and story line for elementary students. Most of the lessons in this curriculum warn of the dangers of drugs, alcohol, smoking, and so on, written in a fun and engaging way. The final four lessons, which Alan wrote, lead to Jesus.

Alan and his wife Jan are grateful for the long partnership they have shared with SonRise and feel truly blessed by our continued support. Alan requests prayers for wisdom and guidance as he moves forward, and for a rapid and high quality completion of the elementary curriculum.



By  
Suzette  
Phillips

## *Dancing With The Word*

**I**n this dance called life that all have been called to, but few choose, we must believe, trust, fear, and be still. These are words we hear everyday. I believe those who don't stop to ponder them can miss the entire meaning of life. They are much more important than I will ever understand.

As the Lord transforms my steps from wild, reckless, flying about, to a very carefully planned learned dance, steps that will take a lifetime to grasp the height and length and depth. A dance that can effect the whole world!

### **To believe**

*A word that calls me to repentance. To seek a relationship with a God I cannot see yet in His unforced rhythm will bend me to listen with my whole heart. That causes my steps to be humble, gentle, kind, and full of thought - to hear what He hears, to love who He loves.*

### **To trust**

*To see what the world does not see and to step into it. Placing my feet outside my reasoning without fear, to truly walk on water knowing by faith that I will not drown.*

### **To fear**

*The dancer is called not to fear the dance but to recognize the magnitude and magnificence of the dance floor. To the point of an overwhelming passionate amazement! My out of control is completely in control. He won't let me go. He holds me close and leads me beside still waters. He restores my mind and soul. He is faithful and true.*

### **To be still**

*In my soul, a quiet holiness grows. Not for a moment but throughout my life, throughout my dance. A stillness that causes the world to stop and want to dance too.*

# The Love of God

By Jim Fowler

The Apostle John twice writes, "God is Love" (1 John 4:8,16). God is pure and absolute Love. The Greek word for God's love is agape, as contrasted with other Greek words for love: eros, from which we get "erotic love;" phileo from which we get Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love; and storge, the natural familial love of father, mother and child. God's love is unselfish and unconditional. God seeks the highest good of the other person without any thought of reciprocation. God's love is always outgoing, for He has no needs that require the affection of anyone other than Himself. He is complete in Himself.

God is Love, and what God is only God is. It is not that God has a quantity of the affection of love that He desires to offer and dispense to others. God IS Love, and when His

presence is received into human creatures He is desirous of expressing His divine character of Love in and through human behavior. "The love

of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Rom 5:5). Love is the first feature of the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22). We are unable to produce agape Love, for it is God's character alone, and only He can express His character of love when He is present and indwelling us.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (Jn 3:16). Because God's love always seeks the highest good of the other, God created mankind and sent His Son, Jesus

Christ, to redeem fallen mankind in order to draw human beings into participation in the perfect loving community of His Trinity. God was not lonely because His Love required an OTHER to express His love towards - thus the necessity of the Trinity. The Son of God, JESUS, is the revelation of God's Love, the life-giving Spirit who brings God's essential Loving character to reside in receptive hearts.

## *"Some memories of some of our sweet women saints who were or are part of our church family."*

When you are a Deacon the Lord blesses you with many Holy moments. I would like to share a few with you. Recently I went to see a long time member of our church who I believe is on hospice and was not doing well. She talked very slowly and quietly pausing frequently as she lay in her bed. Every word out of her mouth was thanksgiving and praise. Thankful for Pastor Jerome visiting, the care of her nieces, and so on. Not one word of complaint. I could feel God's presence there.

Another memory is standing at a grave side service for an elderly woman with only her son, Pastor Jerome, and me and another deacon present. I felt the Lord's presence there with us, and remembering that I was thankful He had nudged me to attend her service that busy morning. He is faithful.

I treasure the memory of visiting a member of our church in the skilled nursing facility who was ill and finding her there with a beloved friend, writing notes of encouragement to others in need. What a blessing to have met a woman full of The Lord's spirit.

And lastly, a sweet woman who recently went home to be with the Lord, I will share one of many moments I treasure. Last Christmas we asked if we could Christmas Carol at her house, as she was housebound much of the time. She asked if we could carol at her neighbor's house, as she would be over there Sunday afternoon. She explained her neighbor was housebound and so her caregiver took her over to see her on Sundays! She was alone most of the time and wanted to brighten her day. A beautiful Saint!

Thankful to serve the Lord in this ministry and see how He is working in it each week, showing His great love and compassion.

By Heidi Dixon

Being a deacon for the past two years has been such a blessing. It has provided me an opportunity to get to know the other deacons very well. This group of servants are so diverse; some are bakers, some have carpentry skills, some work, some are retired, some have big families, some write and send beautiful letters and cards, but all of them have compassion for those in need. I have gotten to know these people on a much deeper level and am blessed to serve with them. As a deacon, we serve together at memorials, visitation days, and are together at monthly meetings, all of which provide me an opportunity to learn about each of them. These special times have allowed me to learn about the spouses, children and grandchildren of our lovely servants. Sometimes we share in the highs and lows of our week, the happy times, and personal struggles, learning that each of us are unique and rely on God to get us through the day. But most of all, I feel God has worked through them to strengthen my personal walk with Jesus. I don't know if they are aware of the impact they have had on me (but if they are reading this now they know) and how much joy I have to serve along side of each of them.

Being a deacon serving in our church is a blessing.

30 By Martha Garcia

**H**i Church Family! I would like to give you an update regarding the Coffee Shop Ministry. For the past 2 years plus a few months, I have been serving as the General Manager at the Coffee Shop. My original intention was to only be in this position temporarily, from our initial purchase, until such a time as we could train



## Fallbrook Coffee Co.

someone from the shop to take on the role and allow the shop to function independently of the church. Well, it took a bit longer than I had originally planned/hoped, but I am pleased to say that we have now reached that point. We have trained our wonderful employee Corianne, who was an assistant manager that showed she was capable and willing to take on a bigger role at the shop. I have total confidence that she will be an excellent manager and will bring a fresh vision to our outreach there. I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors for the Coffee Shop in 2017. I am deeply grateful to have been involved with the inception and first phase of the Coffee Shop Ministry, but I am even more excited to see how the Lord works through Corianne's leadership to further grow and broaden this vibrant ministry. -Icer

**K**en Bitting, Elder of Facilities at SonRise joined Ryan Hunt in making some much needed improvements and repairs to the Coffee Co. Prior to this, Ryan was doing the work by himself! Ken believes we are all called by the Lord to serve, so he came alongside Ryan. These two men poured out their sweat and gave of their time and energy to help keep the Coffee Co. running smoothly. This wasn't the first time Ken has worked on this building. He also helped when the building needed to be repainted.

Ken has attended SonRise for approximately 9 years. About 2 and a half years ago, he was approached about becoming an Elder. After praying and receiving council from a few close friends, he felt it was what God wanted him to do. His largest work project in this position was the water-reduction landscaping project in the front of

the church. On Saturday mornings, you can find Ken enjoying coffee and fellowship with the Men's group that meets at the Coffee Co. every week.

We are grateful for the men and women who serve here at SonRise. The help you give has a ripple effect, extending out into the community and beyond. There are many opportunities at SonRise for all to get involved and serve. One comes to mind as we enter the holiday season... decorating the Sanctuary on November 30 & December 1! Men are needed to climb ladders and hang wreaths and garland. Women are needed to decorate the Christmas tree, church aisles and Narthex. And much more! If you're physically unable to serve, you can help by purchasing poinsettias. Stop by the Flower Ministry table after services on Sunday and fill out a dedication. Poinsettias are only \$7 each and help make the sanctuary beautiful for the many events we host annually during the Christmas season.

God bless you church family! We are so grateful to serve the Lord alongside you.



## Fallbrook Coffee Co. Recent Improvements

### First weekend

*Ryan Hunt tore out the sub-floor in the back, put down new sub flooring, among other things.*

### Second weekend

*Ryan Hunt and Ken Bitting tore out the sub floor behind the counter, built temporary supports for the counter that the espresso machine sits on. Repaired some of the water leaks.*

### Third weekend

*They finished the sub-flooring behind the counter, replaced some water damaged drywall. Replaced the cabinet under the sink and replaced the faucet and finished fixing the leaks.*

### Fourth weekend

*They fixed the drain plumbing for the ice machine and espresso machine, replaced more water damaged drywall under the sink in the back, and painted the new cabinet and supports.*

## Miqlat Christmas Gifts

Believe it or not, Christmas is right around the corner! Would you give an extra gift to your sponsor child this month? \$20 from you will enable us to gift your child and their family with a brand new blanket and a much needed food supplement in December, when the country will be entering the hungriest part of the year just before the harvest season. Though it may not seem as fun as a brightly wrapped package, this gift will be a tangible expression of love. \$20 will provide a gift for your child, but would you consider giving more to enable us to bless more children and families? A Christmas present of \$100 will give gifts to five families! Would you consider challenging yourself this Christmas to bless some families far away? Thank you!

### Sponsorship

Kogoya Hope Center  
Contact: Geyle Kott  
(760)728-5322  
gmktt@aol.com

### Contact/Questions

Bill & Judy Saunders  
(760)728-7859  
billandjudysaunders@gmail.com



## You Should Save a Life

What if you came across someone on the floor of the Narthex and no one

else was around? You find the person is not breathing nor is there a pulse. You start CPR and call 911. Still no pulse... There is an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) just a few yards away. If used it would probably be the difference between life and death! Sadly you don't even know how to get it out of the box let alone hook it up and allow the audio of the AED guide you step by step what to do! Do you get the picture? There will be a short twenty-minute walk-through on what to do in this scenario presented on January 8, 2017 starting four minutes after each service concludes. Do you think you should be there? Contact Jerry Maurer or Pastor Greg for more information.

## Food and Fellowship groups

Thanks to all who participated in the fall Food and Fellowship groups. We had seven groups (two from the 8:30am service, five from the 10:30am service), with about 100 people participating. Groups would meet for a meal, conversation and ice-breakers to get to know each other better. We learned about each others careers, hobbies, interests, and life histories. It makes church attendance much more fun, because now when we see members of our group, we actually KNOW something about them. It's easier to converse after church because we know what to ask. Thanks to all the hosts of the individual groups!

Some new attenders might feel hesitant to join because they don't know many members, but this is the PERFECT place to get connected, and get to know some terrific people. Members who have been around for decades, this is the PERFECT opportunity to meet all the wonderful new people who have just started attending our church. This is all about creating family and community at SonRise. Look for sign up information in January for new groups.

In Him,  
Teresa Johnson and Melinda Madden

# Winter Birthdays

## DECEMBER

1 Sherry Carter  
 2 Miriam Kirk  
 3 Anthony Duling  
 Rick Founds  
 4 Paige Bonenfant  
 Sidney Bonenfant  
 J. Brad Britton  
 7 Jim Donovan  
 9 Marlene Christopher  
 10 Donna Hall  
 Kaedin Kluis  
 Cathy Smelser  
 Gary Thomson  
 12 Kris Kluis  
 Bruce Sharp  
 13 Doris Bowling  
 Paul Patterson  
 15 Robi Foli  
 Debby Mack  
 David Tatzer  
 18 Jay Johnson  
 19 Susan Duling  
 21 Ralph Tibbetts  
 22 Mimi Leraas  
 Esther Nair (Tanksley)  
 25 Toni Crisell  
 28 Rod Hyde  
 Bob Love  
 Jenelle Madden

29 Phebi Foli  
 Diane Ice  
 30 Virginia Cooke  
 Kathy Sears  
 31 Madison Britton  
 Lynne Grantham  
 Greg Ullery

## JANUARY

1 Bruce Daniel  
 Katariya Kluis  
 Cailin LeLaCheur  
 2 Jolie Lowe  
 4 Hailey Dugas  
 Joselyn Ortiz  
 6 Jake Berger  
 7 Karl Stephens  
 14 Chad Duty  
 Alex Timme  
 15 Chase Bonenfant  
 17 Sandra Maile  
 19 Ashley Stalnaker  
 20 Connie Brubaker  
 Joannie Sawdon  
 Roseann Tebo  
 23 Sandi Simpson  
 25 Marilyn Gauthier  
 27 Katie Callahan  
 Chase Dugas  
 Van Hill  
 Glenn Mattes

28 Jeff Graflund  
 29 Chuck Heiser

## FEBRUARY

4 Caron Lieber  
 5 Angela Clift  
 Lincoln Nair  
 Linda Shirey  
 Windy Smith  
 Jean Tiffany  
 7 Charlotte Glasgow  
 9 Kasi Stalnaker  
 13 Gracie Fowler  
 Leslie Grantham  
 Rick Shirey  
 15 Bethany Marroquin  
 17 Agatha Anderson  
 Jen Dugas  
 18 Burt Risser  
 19 Janet McCalla  
 Carolyn Rudd  
 20 Janice Williams  
 22 Lila Sandschulte  
 23 Gladys Wark  
 24 Robert Crisell  
 Marion Lowell  
 Lauren Van Wechel  
 25 Joyce Brittain  
 Dustin Duty  
 26 Linda Cobb  
 27 Debbie Higginbotham

# Winter Anniversaries

## DECEMBER

7 Walt & Karen Parry  
 10 T.J. & Beth Ann Murray  
 13 Don & Carol Hughes  
 14 Bill & Wilma Chain  
 17 Art & JoAnn Deming  
 Tom & Lori Rondeau  
 18 Alan & Terri Simpson  
 19 Allison & Marlene  
 Christopher  
 20 Bill & Judy Saunders  
 29 Sam & Jenny Mundy

## JANUARY

5 Dennis & Sherry  
 McFarland  
 6 Bruce & Margaret Daniel  
 8 Peter & Cathy Smelser  
 11 Don & Bonnie McIver  
 17 Jim & Miriam Kirk

## FEBRUARY

2 Lougene & Hattie  
 Williams  
 12 J. Brad & Paulette Britton  
 16 David & Nancy  
 Rathberger  
 18 Greg & Eva Montague

# Community Outreach

## FEEDING AMERICA

You can help distribute food through the mobile food pantry here in our parking lot twice each month or if you or someone you know is in need of food, please come receive a bag of groceries.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays every month  
9:00 am, Parking Lot



## BREAD OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION

Please join us as we serve a delicious hot dinner to those in need. Please call Ken Bitting for more information.

3rd Monday every month  
4:45 pm, Kitchen

## BROTHER BENNO'S SOUP KITCHEN

Consider joining us as we drive to Oceanside and serve a hot breakfast to those in need. Contact Chris Walls for more information.

4th Friday every month  
6:00 am, Oceanside

## KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

A ministry reaching out to those in prison through writing letters and twice a year delivering home-baked cookies to the inmates during the Kairos Inside Weekend. Contact Norm Leraas for info.

## FALLBROOK FOOD PANTRY

Every month, a local church sponsors the Fallbrook Food Pantry and March is our month! Please bring in canned and boxed food and place in the collection bins in the Narthex.

## FALLBROOK COFFEE CO.

The coffee house is a warm, welcoming place to gather for fellowship and is utilized for small bible studies by local groups. We're excited to see how the Lord will use us to serve the community through this venue. The coffee house is located at 622 S. Mission Rd, downtown Fallbrook.

Hours: M-F 6am-4pm  
Sat & Sun 7am-2pm

## CITY OF REFUGE SAN DIEGO

Brad Fox leads these overnight outreach trips to the City of Refuge in downtown San Diego. Friday night is spent walking the local streets, engaging the people and handing out care packs. Saturday morning we hand out food at the Warehouse until 2pm. The group then returns home. Please call Brad to get involved. 760.419.2453

## MILITARY FOOD DROP BOX

Food drop box available in the Narthex for those who'd like to donate food items to our military.

