

LIFE

Ventura

LINK

Volume 14, Number 5

May 27, 2010

Calendar

May

- 29 - 31.....Memorial Day Wknd
- 30.....Chris Chesnutt, PM service

June

- 4.. Young Adult movie night, 7pm
- 6.....YBC Meeting, 5 PM
- 6..... County wide devo, Conejo
- 8.....Leader Meeting
- 8.....Ladies Devo, J.Waller
- 13..... Graduate Celebration
- 19.....Family BBQ
- 20.....Chris Chesnutt, PM service
- 22.....Leader Meeting
- 27.....Teens, PM service
- 30.....Devo in the Park
- 6/28-7/2.... Vacation Bible School

July

- 4.....Independence Day
- 6.....Leader Meeting
- 9-11.... Family Camp, Balch Park
- 13.....Ladies Devo, D.Alstot
- 17..... Young Adult BBQ
- 18.....3rd Sunday Sing, Fillmore
- 20.....Leader Meeting
- 24-30.....Tahoe Family Camp
- 7/31 - 8/7.....YBC

Birthdays

- 5/30.....Burt Titus
- 5/31.....Virginia Higashi
- 5/31.....Jacob Marchand
- 6/1.....Carolyn Newport
- 6/5.....Richard Turner
- 6/7.....William Fowler
- 6/8.....Stephen Deckrow

Life Stream

Since September 11, 2001, our country has been in a whirlwind. We're in a war that will be longer than the one we fought in South Vietnam. We're experiencing our worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Our national unemployment rate is high for the USA. Retirement plans many had worked for have been severely damaged. We have our largest national debt in history. Health care and prescription costs are crippling. The stock market is a roller-coaster.

All of this and more create anxiety in us about our future. What we want is someone to credibly tell us what will happen in our future – near and distant. If we know what the future holds, we can act wisely in the present as we plan our future.

We want to know about the future, so we can plan and act in anticipation of it. But Solomon asks, "Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come?" (Ecclesiastes 8:7). Is our *present* attention about wrong *future* things?

There are *some* things we can know about the future, to bring us peace of mind. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 24:14, "Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a *future hope* for you, and your hope will not be cut off." By searching for God's wisdom, we align ourselves with God, and gain eternal hope.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 23:17-18, "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. There is surely a *future hope* for you, and your hope will not be cut off." If we center the hope of our lives on God, He will be faithful to us forever, regardless of what happens in our lives.

David wrote in Psalms 37:37, "Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a *future* for the man of peace." If we live upright lives in God's sight, we will be at peace with God, and He will secure our future with Him.

All of these verses point to *future hope*. Life on earth is insecure by its nature.

Life in heaven is secure, in the presence of God; and *that* is our future hope. If we place our hopes on things on earth, our future can only be insecure.

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Guest Pen

There is a lot of economic stress today in the United States and around the world, and because of this, many people are uncertain of what tomorrow will bring. I worry a lot about what kind of world my kids are becoming adults in.

But it has also caused me to think about the role my faith has in daily living. It is in these times the strength of one's faith becomes important. I am reminded of the story in Mark 9 of a father whose son had an evil spirit. The father, in his stress asked Jesus, "...if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." Jesus' response was, "If you can?" "Everything is possible for him who believes." To this I can hear the man shouting, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

We all have some measure of faith, but the part I struggle with is my 'unbelief'. Much of the stress can be avoided by living my life according to God's word. He has given me a guide for the financial, marriage, family, and citizenship parts of my life. It is during these times I have turned to the example Jesus has given me in the scriptures to seek out a peaceful, stress free lifestyle.

First of all Jesus would pray. He would seek strength and guidance from His father. I find this helps me place problems in their proper perspective and it relieves me of the pressure to solve the difficulty by my own wisdom.

Second, Jesus spent time with those He loved. His apostles, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, the mother of Zebedee's sons, and many others I am certain. These were the people who added value to His life. People with whom He shared memories and struggles.

And third, Jesus spent much of His time helping others. Helping them deal with their physical struggles, their personal needs, and encouraging them to trust God everyday.

I pray as we move along in the coming troublesome times, that we all will follow the example of Jesus. That we will trust God to take care of our needs and work with us on helping others see how He can provide peace in these times.

Jim Oliver

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Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 7:14, "When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future." Our earth future is insecure.

Christians must remember that our future hope is not on earth, but in heaven.

And we have a future that we can know something about. In Mt. 26:64, Jesus said, "In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." That's the future we must be concerned about and preparing for, because it's the only future that matters.

Love, Dave

Young Adult Activities

There are some young adult activities planned for the next couple of months. Please add them to your calendar.

June 4 - Movie Nite at the building, 7:00 p.m.

July 17 - Young Adult BBQ at the building.

Youth Events

Be sure to add the following youth events to your calendar.

June 6 - Area wide devo at Conejo, 6:30 PM

July 18 - Shannon & Greg Warwar

End of School Family BBQ

Our annual Family BBQ is on Saturday, June 19th. The fun begins at 11 A.M. and lunch will be ready at noon. There will be games, activities, lots of food and great fellowship! Now is the time to get your quartet group together and start practicing. Be sure to let Greg Warwar know when you have a group, otherwise he will assign groups as the time gets closer. **This year instead of having a pie judging contest we will have a dessert judging contest.** So put the finish on your favorite dessert recipe and get ready for the competition. Plan to come and spend the day with friends!

Family Camp

This year the Family Camp at Balch Park has been moved to July. The dates are July 9 - 11. This campground operates on a 'first come, first serve' basis. No reservations are accepted. If your family plans to attend this event please be sure to let Shannon Warwar or Donna Fowler know so that we can save you a spot.

Devos in the Park

It's time for Devos in the Park. The first one is June 30th due to VBS and the others will fall on the fourth Wednesdays of July and August. They will be at Hobart Park at 7 P.M. Come early and bring your dinner. Don't forget your Bible, and a chair or blanket to sit on.

Ladies Devos

The ladies will be resuming their Summertime devotionals. The theme for this summer is "Fear of the Lord." The first one will be held at **Joyce Waller's** home on June 8th at 7 P.M. **April Vider** will be the speaker.

Nursery Care/June

6.....Shelby Warwar
.....Kacy Anderson
13.....Heather Zell
.....Briahna Plambeck
20.....Monique Vallier
.....Michael Alstot
27.....Megan Eberhardt
.....Ryan Eberhardt



•**Norma Jones** had a blood vessel burst behind her eye and had surgery to have the fluids drained.

•**Odessa Hull** had a cyst removed. The surgery went well and she is now home.

•**Tereasa Baughman**, Donna Fowler's sister is at home recovering from a stroke and Donna is there helping out.

•**Laurie Dennison** will have surgery June 1st at VCMC.

•**Gigi Magana** is on bed rest and waiting on authorization for a back surgery.

Continue to remember:

Ed Hathway, Jim Cornwell, Ken Stallings, Scott Harsh, Sandra Black, Virginia Bartley, David Tracy, Vicki Sawyer, Carolin Newport, Corrine Regan, Kathy Eckel, Brandon Bryant, and Caroline Burke.

Men to Serve/June

Announcements.....R. Warwar
Sound Booth.....P.Knouse

A.M.

Song Leader.....Z.Rawlins
Prayer.....K.Fowler
Scripture Reading.....M.Alstot
Communion.....B.Clements
G.Chennault, T.Carlson,
W.Roberts, K.Luper, M.Dupree,
J.Ewald, J.Oliver, J.Tabor

P.M.

Song Leader.....D.Fowler
Prayer.....T.Knouse
Communion.....D.Jones

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God Bless America

“...If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn away from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

My heart was saddened when President Obama took the position that our “National Day of Prayer” be undermined. The president took the action of turning the country away from God. He chose to call national prayer, “an event”, and felt it would be better addressed privately instead of public prayer. In dissimilarity, President Ronald Reagan was quoted saying, “If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.” As women in Christ’s church we are in a note worthy position of deciding how we will respond to the disparity of these two opinions. Drawing from the biblical history of the Nation of Israel we can glean valuable help in determining God’s intent for Christ’s church today. Without doubt we know that from the beginning of time, God created man in order to have a relationship with him. As our creator, God, in his wisdom and patience, has tolerated our resistance and our inability to submit to His terms. His covenant promises can only be received by our obedience. This nation, founded on Godly principles, has been immensely blessed. We must also be prepared for God to turn his eyes and heart away from us if we continue to ignore Him. One of the reassuring traits of God’s nature is that he cannot lie. His word is His solemn promise to do exactly what he says he will do. Further on in 2 Chronicles 7 God makes it clear of the consequences for failure to acknowledge Him. Verse 19 says, “But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot Israel from MY land, which I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.” Unfortunately, this is exactly what happened. The glorious temple so lovingly designed by King David and skillfully constructed under King Solomon eventually was destroyed. It has never been restored and Israel has never recovered from its decision to disregard God.

Ronald Reagan is hailed today for a presidency that restored optimism to America. In his book *God and Ronald Reagan*, by Paul Kengor, President Reagan attributed his mother as the one who imparted him with the Godly beliefs that enabled him to change the world. What a privilege what a precious opportunity we have to pray for this nation. Our chosen failure to pray to God, **will** effect American generations to come. Had Israel acted in accordance with God’s requirements, they would have received this amazing promise found in Second Chronicles 7:15. “Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.”

“Our bodies are now the temple of God and his Holy Spirit dwells within you and me.” (1Corinthians 6:19) Our God has faithfully promised to keep His eyes on the righteous and his ears attentive to their prayers. With Christ as our mediator we have the ear of our God! We hold the attention of the highest power this earth has ever known! Seek Him, glorify Him, confide in Him, and ask for forgiveness and healing for this land. I challenge you to join others and me in daily prayer for our nation. Ladies, let’s seize this opportunity to humbly change our world!

Love, Denette