



NEW LIFE NEWS

The official newsletter for New Life Presbyterian Church • June 2009

REFLECTIONS ON FATHER'S DAY

Interview and Photos by Laurel and Becky Baertschi



I asked for roller blades for Father's dDay eight or ten years ago, and all the boys said, "You're too old!" I went ten feet and fell and had to have major shoulder surgery, so I guess they were right. —Steve Phillips



My dad embodies the concept of a small world. He could talk to anyone and within five minutes, find a connection. —Dean Abbott



One thing I love about being a dad is that at my kids' age, I always hear new words. I love seeing my kids' minds develop and how they're beginning to learn. I like listening to them read. My favorite part of the day is when I put them to bed and we talk about their day. —Craig Giangregorio

My dad took a big interest in who I would marry. He met Janine on an Easter Sunday, and he told her what a wonderful son I was. —Tim Power



I used to run in the Father's Day run with my dad four or five years in a row. We ran every Sunday. It was a nice time with my dad, and then we would get ice-cream afterwards. —Phil Baertschi



One thing I love about being a dad is knowing that my children will always laugh at "daddy jokes." —Jim Dossett



My dad always had me help him with things. Once he told me to tighten the bolt on a tire and make it as tight as I could. I did, and it broke. —Jack Creedon



One Wednesday, my dad let me play hooky from school, and we went fishing at Santee Lakes. I caught 12 fish. —Mike Orr

GRADUATES



High School

Sarah Burks, Susan Dinwiddie, Miles Patton, John Power, Sarah Sabesky, Andrew Seifert, Laura Soto.

College

Becky Baertschi, Laurel Baertschi, Julie Kocher

MERCY MINISTRIES CONFERENCE 2009

New City Fellowship; Chattanooga Tennessee, March 12-14 • Part I By Christopher Miladin and Gary Pavlovich

The Mercy Ministries Conference in Chattanooga was filled with information and inspiration. Three days were chock full of worship and instruction. About 250 met at New City Fellowship in a former CRC red brick edifice near downtown Chattanooga. There were two plenary sessions and four workshops. Deacon Pavlovich and I attended eight workshops. The workshops are available on tape. For those interested in a specific topic, see Gary.

The opening session covered “The Church as Ministry of Hope” based on the Upper Room Discourse. Bob Burns discussed how Christ gave the disciples and us framework for service consisting of structure, support and challenges for life.

The first seminar I attended was “Peace Making; Living the Gospel in Relationships.” It aimed at making us see Jesus and bring Him into every relationship we have, even teaching children from an early age to enjoy the depth of true forgiveness in relationships, going deeper than just the words, “I’m sorry.” It was noted that peacemaking is not an option, neither in the Christian life nor in the church. The book of church order has a chapter on peace keeping, and it was suggested that an elder be trained in this discipline.

The seminar “Mobilizing Your Church for Mercy Ministries” was eminently practical, reminding us that the church is God’s vehicle for social change. Thirty-five ideas were given for application of compassion through the ministry of the church. Among the most interesting and applicable avenues for New Life La Mesa seemed to be the following:

1. Start a tutoring program
2. Have a sports program
3. Mothers/parents/care givers day out
4. Host medical clinics
5. Sponsor nurse-shots, etc.
6. Monthly car clinic for single mothers

7. Provide a food pantry
8. Big Brother/Big Sister programs
9. ESL classes
10. Adopt special needs individuals

A recurring question of the conference was “If New Life La Mesa closed its doors, would the community miss it, or even know?”

Pastor Randy Neighbors spoke next on the integration of middle class Christians for Kingdom ministry. He noted that New City Fellowship began as an inner city Sunday School. Daughter churches are now spread over the globe. His main focus was on drive-by mercy. He contends that this does not work. Because we all tend to hang out with those like us, we cannot minister effectively. We need to enter into their world. We are all socially moving upward. People who live in poverty are in tightly knit ghettos, locked in. The difference, Randy said, between our parochialism and theirs, is that their existence is precarious without the props. In answer to this, pastor Neighbors said that socialization must be developed over time, even as a two years plan of action. He added that we should not set up a false choice between compassion and love. Policies must be developed for mercy ministries. Forgiveness is essential, but there must also be a line drawn for reference. The model of New City Fellowship was stated by Pastor Neighbors in his closing words, “We cannot afford to be snobs about worship, but must have an Ephesians 2 model of worship, a reconciliation paradigm. We are one in Christ while we still maintain our differences.”

“Rejoicing the City” was the theme of the breakout session, connecting our faith to our vocations and their application within the community of faith and the community at large. We need to work out of our strengths, and networking we can more effectively

minister to the community around us. First, we must inventory the gifts within the church, then identify needs within the community. The gospel must transform the whole world! We do this through the gifts God has placed within the church body.

I was keenly touched by Marti Kwasny’s seminar “Opening Your Church to Special Needs and Their Families.” Drawing from Stephanie Hubach’s book *Same Lake, Different Boat*, Marti emphasized that hospitality is an outward expression of God’s love, and shuts down if it stops at just meeting physical needs. We need to reach out to those who are significantly different. The church needs to remove obstacles for special needs individuals. We were reminded that special needs individuals are all around us, but they are often invisible. Because of access issues they are often hesitant to step out. Last month, going door to door, I came across a special needs group home I did not even know was in our church neighborhood! Our church has an opportunity for much good. The special needs community is well connected within itself, but ventures out only when trust has been gained. We, the body of Christ, have an awesome opportunity here and now. We can provide respite care for those special needs individuals over 21. The government provides programs for them until they are 21, but the programs drop off significantly from that point. The church could step in and be, the church! We can also provide care givers nights off. Be looking for us, Christopher Miladin, Gary Pavlovich, or Sarah Dinwiddie to sign up for your part in this ministry. We want to become a third home for this population, reaching out to the needy at our doorstep. ❧

A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty. —Author Unknown

NEW LIFE MEN'S RETREAT - 2009

By David Kocher • photos by Peter Chapman and Dave Kocher

On May 1-2 about 40 men of New Life enjoyed a refreshing break from their daily routines as they attended the New Life Men's Retreat at Palomar Christian Conference Center. In the Friday and Saturday sessions, we explored the topics of spiritual leadership and worship under the capable tutelage of Dr. Ron Gleason, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Yorba Linda, California.

Drawing extensively upon his training and experience as a former Army officer and seasoned pastor, Dr. Gleason shared his insights on the roles of Christian men as leaders in their homes and in the church. He emphasized the importance of younger Christian men getting involved with a "band of brothers" in much the same way more experienced soldiers train new recruits. Following that pattern, older, more mature Christian men with life experience are to guide younger men along wise paths as they learn to lead their families in firm, yet compassionate ways. Dr. Gleason cited the "Belgic Confession" that articulates the duty of all Christian men to join with and submit to a local church to serve the body of believers with their God-given talents. Instruction in the foundations of the faith, sound doctrine, and practical application, should be elements of training that every Christian man receives in the local church and applies in their roles at home and in the church.

Dr. Gleason's comments on worship drew upon the thoughts of John Calvin, the standards crafted by the Westminster divines, and several other historic confessional statements. Calvin wrote that God "commands us to worship and adore Him with true zealous godliness" for it is in worship that all our other activities find their meaning. He

emphasizes that worship is a "sacred duty." Dr. Gleason used the Confessions to remind us of the pure and simple means God has given for worshipping Him. We were encouraged to resist the siren songs of our age that entice Christians to substitute true worship with cheap substitutes, such as consumer-driven programs, entertainment, and cultural hype. Adoration, trust, sound teaching, thanksgiving, praise, prayer, the preached Word, the Lord's Supper - these are exercises of true worship that glorify our great God and satisfy our thirsty souls.

The retreat culminated with an afternoon of recreation in the beautiful outdoor setting, both on and off the conference center grounds. A group of ambitious hikers trekked to mountain meadows and ancient oak trees. Others took up shotguns and blasted away at soaring clay pigeons. A rigorous softball game produced more than one home run, pulled muscle, and backache. Our mixed group of men from teenagers to grandpas, enjoyed a rich fellowship of kindred hearts as we got to know each other a bit better while sharing in the feasts of rich Biblical teaching and bountiful mealtime spreads.

If you weren't able to come along this year, I'd like to invite you to plan right now to join us next year as the men of New Life head for the hills for a weekend of physical refreshment, spiritual renewal, and good old-fashioned fun. 🍷



SNU EQUESTRIAN LINNEA WOOD RIDES TO ZONE 7 IHSA CHAMPIONSHIP

Linnea Wood, a sophomore at Southern Nazarene University (SNU) and Equestrian Team member, was recently named as the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone Champion in Longmont, Colorado.

"The IHSA Zone Championships were moved at the last minute from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Longmont, Colorado due to heavy snowfall in Wyoming," said Mindy Hole, SNU Equestrian Team riding instructor. "Despite the frigid temperatures, riders and teams competed for the chance to move on to the National Championships in Tennessee."

Only the top two riders from each class qualified for the National Championships. Linnea rode a horse named Arcadian to top honors as the 2009 Zone 7 Champion in Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter.

Wood will be competing for the title of the 2009 National Champion in Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter on April 23, 2009. 🍷

Photo compliments of Linnea Wood. Pictured in photo: Linnea Wood and riding instructor, Mindy Hole.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. —James 1:17

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Anita Patton

The Bible tells us that “The Name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runs into it and is safe.” Other references to God’s Name are: “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will trust in the Name of the Lord our God,” and “Those who know your Name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You.” Where do you run when trouble strikes suddenly, when fear raises its head like a venomous snake, or depression threatens to overwhelm or hope vanishes? Where do you run? To the telephone, to a friend, to the mall, to the refrigerator, to drugs, to the government? Is it hard to trust someone when you don’t even know his name? Is your desire like Paul’s to know Christ? Where do you run with praise and thanksgiving?

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I will

The Hebrew names of God are rich in meaning beyond what our English words convey. This year WOC presents a devotional summer series on the names of God, names for refuge and strength.

trust.” Have you ever wondered why in the Bible, God is addressed as “Most High,” “Almighty,” “Lord,” or “God?” The Hebrew names of God are rich in meaning beyond what our English words convey.

This year WOC presents a devotional summer series on the names of God, names for refuge and strength. We will be studying six Hebrew names of God as He revealed Himself in Scripture and how each of His revelations is perfectly fulfilled in Jesus.

Please join us at 8:30 a.m., room 202, as we meditate on the breadth of God’s revelation of His character in His names, how each revelation points to Jesus Christ and how each name tells us something of how God deals with us.

Our prayer is that you will see God’s names as a many faceted diamond of His being and be blessed by knowing God as He desires to be known, by His Name.

June 13..... Eydie Chapman
Introduction, Elohim and El Elyon

June 27..... Trudy Verdick
Jehovah, I AM”

July 11 Marcia Vanderpoel
El Shaddai”

July 25..... Karen Goodhart
The Lord is my Shepherd

August 8..... Lari Bowman
The Lord is my Peace

August 22 Tina Settergren
The Lord is my Provider ☛

THINGS MY FATHER DOES WITH ME

Third and Fourth Grade Class • Submitted by Ron Smith and David Felix



I'm thankful when my dad plays with me. I like my dad alot; he earns money for me and my family to by food. I like my father a lot! —Kyle

I am thankful for my mother for not jumping on me and does not throw me in the pool when we have one, and does not squirt me with a water gun when I misbehave. —Isaiah

I'm thankful that my dad is able to eat dinner with me and that he can work and look at the computer at the same time. —Ben

I am thankful for my dad because (1) He provides for the family (2) He does woodwork with me (3) Most of all he loves me! —Lucas

My brother Luke takes me out after school he lets me play at his house he buys me stuff and whenever he goes away he always brings me keychains He's like the dad i never had. —Emily

I'm thankful for my dad because plays with me and helps me do my schoolwork. An aim thankful for everything he does. —Josiah

My dad plays soccer with me, kickball, baseball. He cares for me and loves me. My dad is a officer in the reserved navy. —Kaeley

I am so thankful for my father! He tries so much to give me the best life a Christain girl can get. Even though I fail to do everything God wants me to do, he still loves me. My dad took a lot of work off to help me on my 4th grade mission prodject. I am so lucky to have a father like mine. Thank you dad for everything you have done for me. You are a wonderful dad. —Hannah

My father takes me to places that are really fun for example he is taking me and my family to disneyland on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He also takes us to dairy Queen down the street and we get waffle bowl Sundays. My dad is the best dad in the whole world. —Faith ☛