



NEW LIFE NEWS

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY—TWO BEGINNINGS

by Jon Verdick

We gathered on *that* historic afternoon in late spring or early summer of 1997. (The exact day is perhaps lost to history.) Now, you could be forgiven for asking how that could possibly be. It would indeed seem strange that such a momentous occasion should not have been better documented and recorded, perhaps with a monument of stone, or a bronze plaque proclaiming, “On this spot, on such-and-such a date...” this milestone event transpired. You will think that I am crazy when I suggest that this event in 1997 should be the genesis for a tenth anniversary celebration in 2008.

On April 26, 2008 we will pass a milestone in the life of New Life; we will celebrate the second time this momentous event occurred on this site, 5333 Lake Murray Boulevard. Again, you will be forgiven for being both puzzled and quizzical, as I explain that April 26, 1998 is better known and better documented in the history of New Life Presbyterian Church. Many people will remember that day as the first time they came to worship in this building, when it was brand new.

It was an exciting day for everyone. There were visiting dignitaries from sister churches, a couple of short speeches, and a lot of excitement as many people came to worship and explore their new home for the very first time. Suzy Andrecht inaugurated the new kitchen with a huge dinner in Fellowship Hall following that historic worship service. It was a long anticipated, happy day, when years of praying, searching and laboring found their fulfillment in our “New Home for New Life” (building slogan).

But still, it is odd that we remember that day in 1998 when we held the *second* worship service in our new building while the *first* has receded further back into history.

It was on that forgotten day in the late spring or early summer that we held our *first* worship service in our new building. Most people brought lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. There were 30-year-old fluorescent lights jury-rigged to a temporary power panel, a portable sound system, and babies sitting in their strollers. There was no nursery, no kitchen, no fancy dinner celebration, no bathrooms, no tables or chairs. There were no dignitaries. You could see all the studs in the outer walls. You could walk from the gym straight into the sanctuary, on into the church office. You could see the library from the kitchen. You see, there were no walls and no doors to define the rooms and direct your path.

We held that first worship service in 1997 almost eleven years ago, as we camped on the shores of the Jordan river anticipating the beginning of construction in a few days of what would become the church we enjoy today. We had come to rejoice and give thanks for God’s grace and provision, that we had persevered through many years in the wilderness looking for property, and now we stood on the banks of Interstate 8, prepared to cross over in a few months into our new building. We gave thanks and sought



God’s continued blessing as we raised money for a goal that seemed as big as conquering the Promised Land had probably seemed to the Israelites so long ago. Our God provided and delivered this new home to us.

As we reflect on the tenth anniversary of our *second* worship service, may we also be reminded, at least in part, of the days on the “other side” of the Jordan when our pulpit folded, our library was on wheels, and we had to store nursery toys in an outdoor shed every week. May we reflect on the graciousness of our God, as we celebrate our *second* worship service. ❧

THE DINWIDDIES

by David Dinwiddie

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.
—John 12:32

We are David and Susan Dinwiddie with our children Katie(19), Sara (soon to be 17), John (13), and Joshua (12). We also have two daughters, Julia (24) and Emily (21), who are members of New Life, La Jolla, and New Life, Escondido respectively.

We are thrilled to be members of New Life, La Mesa. We want you to help and encourage us to stay focused on keeping Christ central in our lives. You see, we are often so easily distracted by the daily activities of life, and things that in the end are of little consequence. We need constant reminders of Jesus— His perfect life, His atoning death, and His ongoing work in our lives. We need to hear again and again of His promises and His provision. We have found in New Life, a church that honors Scripture as the infallible Word of God, wonderful expository preaching, and people who desire, by the grace of God, to have lives continually transformed by God working in and through His Word. We also pray that by God's grace, through the lifted up Son of God, that we can be a blessing to you.



We were introduced to the reformed faith at Faith Church of Guam. I served as an elder at Church in the Canyon (PCA) until our move to San Diego County in 2003.

To give you a thumbnail sketch of who we are, we'd like to list some key words and phrases. Feel free to ask us about any of these that may be of interest.

- David: Navy, baseball, software development, Lutherans, Rose-Hulman Institute, Naval Postgraduate School, Civil Engineer Corp, La Porte, Indiana
- Susan: mothering, "chauffeur-ing," Princeton, Indiana, Indiana State University

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- Sara: words, scrapbooking, Joni and Friends Family Retreats, babysitting
- Katie: numbers, pi, math, SDSU, piano, Spanish, Team Baja
- John: robots, Mindstorms, bowling, cartooning
- Joshua: cooking, Padres, cadets, stamps 🐾

THE WILDMANS

Dorothy, Eric and Patrick

Greetings from the northwest! Since our move to Fidalgo Island, we have been attending Anacortes Christian Reformed Church where Eric has been ordained as a deacon. We are also involved with the worship team at church. Eric enjoys photography, particularly taking wildlife and scenic shots around the island and continues his work in the finance office at Island Hospital; he was awarded Employee of the Year in 2007. I have been living the dream of being a stay-at-home mom although our church has recently hired me as a part-time administrative assistant to the pastor. My new interests are quilting in the winter and gardening in the summer. I still do geocaching when I can work it in.

Patrick is finishing up first grade at Fidalgo Elementary School. He is in Cub Scouts and has recently begun horsemanship lessons with a retired Mounted Police Officer. We are in the process of arranging for Patrick to bring the horse to school for "show and tell." He also enjoys reading, science and history.

We've had a few visitors from New Life since our move. If you're ever in Northwest Washington, please feel free to drop by. We are still roasting coffee, and you might find us hiking around Fidalgo Island once the weather gets warmer. We miss you all. 🐾



THE KOK FAMILY

Andre, Jessica, Pieter and Anneke

Greetings from Texas! It's been 10 months since we left San Diego. We look back on our time with you as a golden year of good times, good friends.

We found a wonderful church here called Redeemer Presbyterian. They meet at San Antonio Community College in downtown San Antonio. They're hard at work being a part of the city. They're

time in Washington D.C. We've put Skype to work and "see" Andre almost every day. Andre has also been working on a master's degree from Harvard, and is cleared to graduate in June.

Pieter turned four in December. He recently started preschool here on base two days a week, and I continue to home school him on two days.

*When all is said
and done, we are
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measure. Praise
God, and come visit
Texas ya'll.*



only about five years old with about 300 members, definitely a growing church.

Our biggest news in that Andre is deployed. He left mid-January and will be back the end of July. He's deployed to Guantanamo Bay, working for the Legal Advisor to the Convening Authority for the Office of Military Commissions. He does things like take reporters down to Cuba, brief the State Department on what's going on with the tribunals, prep his boss for press briefings, meet with congressional staffers, facilitate interviews, and the list goes on...He enjoys his job and feels like he's working on making history that all school children will have to learn. Even though his orders are to Cuba, he spends most of his

He has tons of energy and a love of learning. He started taking karate classes in January. It was intended to be a diversion from Daddy leaving, but he's really gotten into it. I think karate will be part of our lives for a long time. Anneke is our sweet little princess, but has a powerful set of lungs! At 20 months she's mastered the art of getting her way and generally getting her brother in trouble for it in the process.

To keep up with our everyday lives, take a look at our family website. Please leave a comment and let us know that you took a peek. www.thekokfamily.com user name: *andrekok* password: *family*.

When all is said and done, we are blessed beyond measure. Praise God, and come visit Texas ya'll. ☺

PETER

By Bob Whitson

*On the sea his work was honest,
rough and bleak.
His love of God, sincere and true,
was great.
His nature, slow to think and
quick to speak.
Abrupt and hasty, prone to
aggravate.*

*His Master said, "Come, Peter,
come to Me!"
The wind was wild, and he was
choked with doubt,
And sank beneath the waves of
Galilee.
His Master took his hand and
brought him out.*

*He bathed their feet. "The
meaning, you will see."
"You'll never wash my feet," brash
Peter said.
"Unless I do, you have no part
with Me."
"Then, Master, wash my feet, my
hands, my head."*

*In his poorest hour he failed his
greatest trial.
Three times he cried in wrath "I
know Him not!"
The crow of cock recalled his bold
denial.
His tears flowed free for this
eternal blot.*

*This simple man who heard his
Master's call
Portrays for us the essence of us all
Since Adam's fall. ☺*

WANTED:

The Ritchies are looking for a piano. If you have one or know of one for sale, please contact them.



THE MEDENDORPS

by Thadd Davis

Five years ago we left New Life to return to Holland. Time flies. But there's no day we don't think of the time we lived in San Diego. We still drive our Honda Odyssey. When the weather is cold and grey, we think of the sun in San Diego. Last week with Easter, we got snow!

The kids made a snowman before they went to school this morning.

Robert Jan, the baby when we left your place, is now playing with his little brother, Max. The boys never experienced living somewhere else, but the girls really do remember San Diego. They are doing great. Anne and Iris are still dancing and Jeanine likes to do handcrafts. They are tall girls. When you see them, you wouldn't recognize them. I

Our church community is starting to make a new church building for our church in Zwolle-noord. Wijbrand is the project manager for the construction project.



am busy keeping up with everything going on. Some days in a month I work as a substitute teacher at our primary school.

Last February Wijbrand's father died. He had a stroke and unfortunately he didn't recover. Wijbrand is planning to start his own business. It took five years to build a network to generate his own business. Our church community is starting to make a new church building for our church in Zwolle-noord. Wijbrand is the project manager for the construction project. But it takes years in Zwolle to get all the permits to start the construction process. We pray the Lord to bless this project because the building we use now is not accommodating anymore.

You can visit our website: www.gkvzwollenoord.nl. At this moment our church is blessed with two pastors. That's really necessary because we're 1,100 members.

Love in Christ, the Medendorp family ☺

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INDIA: PART 1

by Sherrene



After growing up hearing stories from my family about India, it had been my unfulfilled dream of visiting the mother country. All of my childhood fantasies indulged an Aladdin-like atmosphere, complete with magic carpets, fragrant Jasmine flowers, and exotic spices all along the way. Now, at 21 years old, my magic carpet came in the form of Singapore Airlines, and my dreamy scents were replaced with pollution filled skies. Needless to say, India was not as “magical” as I thought. Despite my disappointed childish imaginings, going to India was still breathtaking. There is something special about not just visiting another country, but visiting the country of one's own family. Sometimes it does seem like a movie. An American-born girl travels to the country of her forefathers to meet her dying, long lost grandfather? It is an epic story of reconciliation indeed. I just never could have imagined the ending...*to be continued.*

SAUL/PAUL

By Bob Whitson

Saul

*The rugged rocks were hurled. The man lay dead.
“It is enough; he blasphemed God,” Saul said,
And took a road that to Damascus led.*

*He fell, struck down by Heaven's blinding light.
A voice: “Saul, Saul, why do you harm Me so?”
“Who are you, Lord?” “Yeshua, Whom you smite.
For you, the goads are hard. Arise and go.”*

*Then soon his blinded eyes by God were healed;
And he partook of neither beverage nor meat.
With blessed water he was Spirit-sealed,
His sacred charge from Christ was now complete.*

Paul

*As once before, the rugged rocks flew home.
Paul lived through this, to preach the Holy Word.
In stormy seas, in crowds, at last in Rome,
He bent to this, his task, all undeterred.*

*The debt the Gentiles owe is ocean-wide.
He gave us Christ's directions as a guide,
And for this priceless gift of love...he died. ☺*