



THE VINE

Growing Together In Christ

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2008

WELCOME Pastor Glen Weber

Submitted by Larry Omasta

On Sunday morning, September 28th, our congregation participated in a very moving and inspiring ceremony – the commissioning of our new Senior Pastor Glen Weber with his wife Connie. District Pastoral Leader, Bernie Dizon, who pastors New Life Christian Fellowship in Pasadena, conducted the ceremony.

Pastor Bernie started out by giving honor to pastor Dennis Pelley for his many years of service to our congregation. He also reminded us that with Pastor Dennis' retirement we sought God's appointment for a new pastor here. The collective prayers of our congregation joined with the prayers of other congregations in our denomination asking God to select the pastor who would best suit our spiritual needs.

Before officially commissioning him, Bernie rehearsed with Glen the scriptural charge that defines, in part, his responsibilities as senior pastor of our congregation. He read from 1 Peter 5:1-4.

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flocks that are under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."

In this passage, the apostle Peter presents a three-fold charge to elders serving in the office of pastor. That charge involves: the mindset, the method and the motive of leadership. The mindset of leadership: Christian leaders, like Jesus, are to be "suffering-servants." They do not look for glory now – rather they offer themselves sacrificially now looking for glory in the future when Jesus appears.

This is the theology of the cross – it speaks of suffering now and glory later. This is the essential basis for Christian leadership.

The method of leadership: A pastor is to be a "shepherd." This word is a metaphor that vividly illustrates tender care as a primary quality of pastoral leadership. The word "shepherd" speaks to the nurturing and protecting aspects of leadership. And then Peter calls the

“Christian leaders, like Jesus, are to be “suffering-servants.” They do not look for glory now – rather they offer themselves sacrificially now looking for glory in the future when Jesus appears.”

pastor an "overseer." The idea is that of diligent, watchful oversight. Here is an involved leader—one who goes on ahead, who knows the territory, who charts the course, and is constantly on watchful guard.

Because Scripture teaches that all believers are to be ministers with and for Christ, the job of an "overseer" involves being an equipper as described in Eph. 4:12-13, "To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Peter also gives a caution about being an overseer. Don't "lord it over" the sheep. Doing so might be the tendency of strong leaders who want to get things done. But proactive and dynamic leadership must never be through coercive or otherwise abusive tactics.

The motive of leadership: Motive is everything.

And note what Peter says about the motive for serving as an elder who shepherds and oversees as pastor: "be a willing servant as God wants you to be. And not greedy for money, but eager to serve."



A Family of Hope for All People

Continue on page 2

WELCOME Pastor Glen Weber continued from page 1

A godly leader serves willingly, with a sense of duty toward God. Personal gain: power, prestige, money – is never to be the motive. Rather the motive must be love for Christ and love for people.

At this point, Pastor Bermie called all New Hope Elders to come on stage with Glen and Connie Weber. Then he turned to Glen and said, “You have been called to serve Jesus Christ and work together with your ecclesiastical supervisors and fellow ministers in the Master's service.



He then asked, “Are you, Glen, willing to serve this congregation as a minister of Jesus Christ, fulfilling the office of pastor?” Glen answered, “Yes” and repeated this pledge:

“I, Glen Weber, promise God before these witnesses, that I will faithfully serve the Worldwide Church of God and the members of New Hope Christian Fellowship – doing my best to uphold the calling and office of pastor.”

Then turning to the congregation, Pastor Bermie said, “Scripture calls upon the people of God to receive their leaders in love (1 Thess. 5:12-13). We express love by serving with our pastor, praying for him and his wife and by supporting him as he submits to Christ.

“And so as the congregation that Glen will lead as pastor and friend, we should pledge our support. Please repeat after me: ‘As members of New Hope Christian Fellowship, a congregation of the Worldwide Church of God, we will seek to faithfully support Glen Weber as pastor, praying for him and his wife and upholding him in leading us in advancing the ministry of Jesus Christ to which we are all called.’”

At this point, Pastor Bermie, asked all the elders to lay hands on Pastor Glen and his wife as he offered up a prayer of thanksgiving and blessings. Then turning to the congregation, he said, “Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you, your new pastor – Pastor Glen Weber and his wife Connie.”

It was truly a very moving and inspiring ceremony to inaugurate a new chapter for New Hope Christian Fellowship.

“The duties you are now fully entrusted with are a great joy. They are fulfilling, satisfying and rewarding. Serving our Lord by caring for his flock, preaching his gospel and standing firm in the faith is a wonderful opportunity.

“Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, will empower you in his service as pastor of this congregation.”



STAFF BOX

Editor	Mary Terry
Layout/Graphics	Leonard Olive
Pastoral Advisor	Pastoral Team
Contributors	YOU!

Send articles or contributions to
Mary Terry: 1508 W. Huntington Drive
Alhambra, CA 91801 626.308.2961
mistyt92536@yahoo.com

Bible Study

By Mary L. Terry

BIBLE STUDY!!! What a topic! This brief article is intended to lift you all up by your boot straps and get you geared up, and inspired to start attending our WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES.

We have a great time, each Thursday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm, learning from GOD'S WORD!

BIBLE STUDY is a very special part of our lives. It touches each of us in our daily walk with Jesus Christ. By attending these weekly studies, I am more inspired to dig into my personal study of THE WORD.

I hope that every member of our congregation is aware that we have a weekly Bible Study. It can be difficult at the end of the day to get into our vehicles and make one more trip from home. However, once you take that initial step, it gets easier and you find that you are looking forward to Thursday Evening with an anxious desire to be there.

Dr. Russell Duke has been leading us in a very interesting and stimulating study in the Books of Corinthians. We have completed 1 Corinthians and are now studying in 2 Corinthians. When he has been unable to do this due to other commitments, Larry Omasta has taken over the reins.

Dr. Duke will be gone for two weeks on the Hawaiian Cruise and upon his return will not continue with the studies due to his many other commitments.

Our new Pastor Glen Weber, is stepping in to lead us, which is great because it gives those of us in attendance the opportunity to get to know him better. We were pleased to have him lead our latest study on Thursday evening, October 16th.

We have an amazing time reading through and discussing the scriptures. I don't think you can find a better meal anywhere, except perhaps on Sunday Morning.

So, we take this opportunity to invite you to join us any Thursday evening when you have nothing more compelling to do.

Sample listing of current weekly bible studies:

Thursday Morning Bible Study, Oct 23 – Led by Larry Omasta from 9:30 – 11 am at 1612 N. Roosevelt Ave, Pasadena. Currently, the book of Genesis is being studied. We're in chapters 25-26. Coffee will be on.

Thursday Night Bible Class, Oct 23 – Led by Pastor Glen Weber from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in Classroom #3. We are studying the book of 2 Corinthians and are in chapters 7-8. There's a seat reserved just for YOU, so please come join us!

Sunday Bible Study, Oct 26 – Led by Larry Omasta at 9:15 am in Classroom #2 – The Parable of the Great Banquet – Luke 14:16-24.

GOD'S Pharmacy-Amazing

Contributed by Franklin Guice

It's been said that God first separated the salt water from the fresh, made dry land, planted a garden, made animals and fish... all before making a human. He made and provided what we'd need before we were born.

These are best & more powerful when eaten raw. We're such slow learners. God left us a great clue as to what foods help what part of our body!!



A sliced Carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye... and YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.



A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food.



Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.



A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.



Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.

Continue on page 5



Celery, Bok Choy, Rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.



Avocados, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine (9) months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).



Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the numbers of sperm as well to overcome male sterility.



Sweet Potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics.



Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries



Oranges, Grapefruits, and other Citrus fruits look just like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.



Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, Garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.

The NAMI WALK by Linda Miller

Submitted by Bonnie Miller

NAMI which stands for the “National Alliance on Mental Illness”

Wants to show everyone that we can be successful still

So we’re going on long NAMIWALK

We’ll show that we do more than just talk the talk

Yes we’re walking the walk – literally

We’re doing this action for a cause

So let’s pause

And tell others what we are doing

The paths we are pursuing

Let’s help others see - That we

Can be just the same - Just as tame

As everyone else can be - Let’s let them see

Just because someone gets a little depressed isn’t so bad

Everyone gets sad

Just because we get hyper

Doesn’t mean we’re dirty like diaper

Just because someone hears voices

Doesn’t mean they always make negative choices

Let’s let people see that “Normal Is Just A Setting On A Dryer”

We don’t need to be on a flyer

We all are a lot the same

We are very tame

Now we are bringing attention to our plight

To the stigma we have to fight

Just like Martin Luther King Jr. helped out the blacks

We mentally ill want to get our dignity back

We want you to see that even though we are mentally ill

Our lives can be great still

We can function really well

We can function really swell

So let’s walk this walk

And do more than just talk the talk

Let’s let the world see what we can do

Let’s let everybody not just a few

Let’s let everybody know that we can succeed

Yes we can succeed – We can succeed indeed

What Have You Done Today?

by Jennifer Beattie, Belfast, Ireland
(Submitted by Wilma Murphy)

You say you'll do much in the year to come
But what have you done today?
You plan to give wealth in a princely sum
But how much have you given away?
You'll heal broken hearts and dry every tear
Bring to them hope and take away fear
Carry His word to those far and near
But what have you done today?

You say you'll be kind after a while
But what have you done today?
The lonely, the hurting wait for your smile.
You promised to light up their way.
Your aim is to give truth a grander birth
And to steadfast faith, a deeper worth.
To carry His love to the ends of the earth.
But what have you done today?

You plan to reap much in the by and by
But what have you sown today?
You plan to build mansions up in the sky.
But what have you built today?
It's nice to dream and in visions bask
But here and now, have you done your task?
The only question that matters, I ask
Is what have you done today?



Visit Our Website

www.newhope4all.org

- Ministries
- Church Info
- Who We Are
- Sermons & More
- Church Events

Imagining God

By Tammy Tkach

I've been watching episodes of the original Star Trek. The special effects of the 1960s crack me up, not to mention the costumes and hairstyles. I've been laughing out loud at the "camp and circumstance."

In this series, the crew of the starship Enterprise frequently encounter beings of superior intelligence. Sometimes these beings dismiss the humans as violent and destructive, not worthy of their attention. Other times they manipulate and play with the crew, either for amusement or to accomplish their own ends. In one episode, humans are captured and put on display in a type of zoo.

It's interesting that these stories were written at a time when many seemed to be breaking away from traditional beliefs, choosing instead to believe in science. The idea of a being superior to man became passé to the more intellectual types. I remember learning what every school child learns as the basic principles of science – only trust what can be measured and duplicated. Thus God couldn't possibly exist, as He can't be seen, measured or duplicated.

I wonder if the writers imagined some of their virtual inventions might actually come true. Many devices we saw in Star Trek were futuristic and unbelievable, but surprisingly have been realized as technology has developed. Cell phones bear quite a resemblance to Star Trek communicators. Did any of them think the superior beings they also envisioned could be based on the truth?

The beings in Star Trek ranged from giant, disembodied brains to alien-looking creatures in ethereal robes. Some appeared as globes of light with strange voices, while others looked human but appeared and disappeared at will. All had one thing in common: extraordinary power and enlightened ideals of peace and harmony.

I find it fascinating that the original series featured many encounters with superior beings, but later spin offs rarely did. Subsequent series seemed more concerned with fighting and conquering enemies. I guess the innocence and wonder at what might be out there gave way to cynicism, at least on the part of the writers.

I laugh when I see the enlightened beings of Star Trek. The writers were on the right track, but they couldn't begin to imagine the One they were subconsciously looking for. Not a disembodied brain but a living being with unimaginable powers, knowledge and wisdom. Not an alien who gets his jollies out of displaying humans in a zoo or manipulating them for fun, but a loving Father who cares for His creation and wants to adopt us as His children, with only our good in mind.

God isn't a creation of science fiction writers. He cannot be reduced to a globe of light, flitting through the universe. He's real but hard to imagine. Augustine said, "God is more truly imagined than expressed, and He exists more truly than is imagined."

Watching old Star Trek episodes reminds me of how small our imaginings of God are, and at the same time, of how great He is. Let Him be praised!

