

The Vine

“I am the vine, you are the branches...” John 15:5

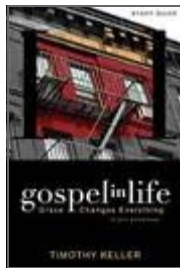
Volume 2011 Issue 7

August 2011

Adult Sunday School

New Study

Begins September 11th



Grace Changes Everything
Gospel in Life DVD
includes 8 ten minute
teaching videos featuring
Tim Keller. The companion
study guide includes group
discussion questions and
individual home studies.

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Pastor Tom's News and Views

First of all, thank you all for the wonderful and warm welcome to Christ Our Savior United Methodist Church. The weather in the Antelope Valley during July has been so much nicer than all the gag gifts predicted. So far I haven't had to use the huge water bottle, sunscreen, or lip balm, although Fil has used the moisturizing skin cream. Maybe I haven't needed those things because I've been spending most of my time indoors unpacking books and getting the office arranged. Or, it could be because I've spent so many hours in the car commuting between San Gabriel and Quartz Hill.

Anyway, the commuting is about to end. By the time you read this, we should be moved into our new house at **3351 Club Rancho Dr Palmdale, CA 93551**. (Please add us to your directories.) Some of the golfers in the congregation know where the house is. They say they've hit it many times! Well, we hope that most of you will come to know our house in a different way, as guests who are invited inside. We pray that we will be able to provide a wonderful and warm welcome to you.

In leaving San Gabriel, we gave up a wonderful view of the San Gabriel Mountains, but our Palmdale home has wonderful views of the Tehachapi Mountains. God has truly blessed us with a loving congregation and a beautiful location.

I have prayed that God would also bless me with a vision for COS UMC and the first vision was not one I expected. In response to my prayer, God made me feel the anguish, shuddering sobs, and tears of brokenness. Faithful to that vision, I have preached about brokenness. But God does not leave us alone in our brokenness, so I have preached about a) the plan God has to prosper us and not to harm us (Jeremiah 29:11) and b) the God who reaches out to hold our right hand and reassure us that he will help us (Isaiah 41:13) and c) Jesus who commands us to love each other (John 15:17). Finally, I have preached about prayer for renewal modeled on the prayer of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:10-20).

The leaders of this church, like Nehemiah and his supporters, have physically renewed the facilities of this church and spiritually renewed the lives of those attending. Preaching and teaching the Word of God, the leaders developed disciples for Jesus Christ. They led the church to ministering in new ways with the people of the Antelope Valley. Now the church is entering into a new phase in its life. What plans does God have for the next step in the renewal of Christ Our Savior UMC?

I will be re-examining the text of *Nehemiah* to discern ways in which God might inspire us and we might respond. Will we shut the gates to keep people out or will we go into the neighboring towns and take a tenth of the believers into our midst? Pray that we might hear and obey God and truly become “the heart of God in the heart of Quartz Hill.”

Pastor Tom Hower



Amen Corner—Prayer Before Eating a Meal—shared by Elizabeth Stewart

Jesus took the loaves, and gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.
John 6:11

LORD, as the 5000 knew that their meal came from the hands of the Master, I know my food comes from Your hand. Thank You for farmers, dairymen, processors, truckers, grocery clerks, cooks and servers who made this meal possible. But above all, I am grateful to You for the good things that satisfy my hunger and enable my body to function. I ask that I might find happiness in the enjoyment of this meal. And may the table fellowship be warm and fulfilling

whether You and I are alone or You have sent table companions to eat with me. When the meal is finished let me feel well nourished and ready to go forth and live for You and serve Jesus. Amen



News Bulletin

Christ Our Savior UMC is excited to welcome our new Pastor, Tom Hower and wife Fil to their first Quartz Hill BBQ. Following worship on Sunday, September 11th please plan on staying for lunch and fellowship. Look for a sign up sheet in the church lobby to note your attendance and choice of side dishes to share. Your faithful Trustees will furnish the BBQ and meat.

Wesleyan Core Term—Caring for Neighbor

Caring for neighbor goes hand in hand with loving God. We don't have to choose between feeding on Scripture and feeding the hungry, between reaching out to God and reaching out to those in need. The Christian walk requires both works of mercy and works of piety. Who is our neighbor? According to Wesley, our neighbor is anyone who needs our help, not just the person already part of our group. Wesley

was especially concerned that we care for those we might not initially think of as neighbors, those beyond our immediate neighborhood, people of different faiths or ethnic backgrounds. Most of all, caring for neighbor means not passing by the most needy and vulnerable, the hungry, injured, or

hurting. Wesleyans believe God has bound together all people—no matter how different—by creating each of us in God's image. God has already made us all neighbors, so we can expand our hearts to care for neighbors down the street and around the world.



My Testimony—by Chris Ulvin

On Wednesday, July 20th I organized a meeting of all our Sunday School Volunteer Teachers. Other than Sue Hall who was visiting her family in Colorado and Peter Dominquez who was celebrating his birthday (How did I miss that date in our July newsletter?), everyone showed up. Even Fil Hower who had to commute 75 miles to join us. God never ceases to amaze me on how He places the right people in the right place at the right time. God's alright by me! We came up with some fun ideas for our children. If a month has a fifth Sunday, we will hold Children Church. All our children will worship together in song, games, crafts and lesson. October 30th will be one of these 5th Sundays. On Monday, October 31st we will host a 2nd Annual "Trunk and Treat" in our parking lot. So all you children in spirit, start planning your car trunk theme. December 11th will be our Children's Christmas Program. I give thanks to all the willing teachers in our "small but mighty" congregation. God bless your serving hands.

To share your "Testimonies of Thanks" in future editions of *The Vine*, email chrisulvin@yahoo.com

Fifth Grade Assignment

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in ways to communicate ideas about God.

God is like BAYER ASPRIN

He works miracles.

God is like a FORD

He's got a better idea.

God is like COKE

He's the real thing.

God is like

HALLMARK CARDS

He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like TIDE

He gets the stains out others leave behind....

God is like

GENERAL ELECTRIC

He brings good things to life.

God is like WAL-MART

He has everything.

God is like ALKA-SELTZER

Try Him, you'll like Him.

God is like SCOTCH TAPE

You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

God is like DELTA

He's ready when you are.

God is like ALLSTATE

You're in good hands with Him.
God is like VO-5 HAIR SPRAY

He holds through all types of weather.

God is like DIAL SOAP

Aren't you glad you have Him?
Don't you wish everyone did?

God is like Maxwell House

Good to the very last drop.

God is like Bounty

He is the quicker picker upper,
Can handle the tough jobs, and
He won't fall apart on you.

IMAGINE

You have just won the following prize in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400.00 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules, just as any game has certain rules.

The first set of rules would be: Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you. You may not simply transfer money into some other account. You may only spend it. Each morning upon

awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400.00 for that day.

The second set of rules: The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, Its over, the game is over! It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted. Right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love. Right? Even for people you don't know, be-

cause you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself. Right? You would try to spend every cent, and use it all. Right?

Actually, this GAME is REALITY! Each of us is in possession of such a magical bank. We just can't seem to see it.

The MAGICAL BANK is TIME! Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life. Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day!

START SPENDING!



Donating blood is a great way to spend 1,800 of your seconds. And talk about a return on your investment. The pint of blood you donate saves three lives! The American Red Cross will be set up in the air conditioned Almond Blossom Room in Christ Our Savior United Methodist Church on Monday—August 8th—2:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

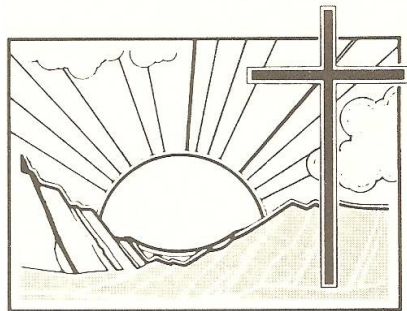
If you want to spend 600 of your 1,800 seconds somewhere else, visit www.givelife.org and enter code cosumc to schedule an appointment. This will put you at the front of the line. Walk-ins are always welcome. And what the heck, what's a few thousand seconds when you have so many. What medical labs don't have is a way to manufacture blood. Blood only comes from the human body. Now that's Priceless.

Christ Our Savior

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
in Quartz Hill

5027 West Columbia Way
P.O. Box 3236
Quartz Hill, CA 93536

Phone: (661) 943-2774
Web: www.cosumc.net



**A friendly church in the
heart of Quartz Hill**

Church Calendar

Monday—August 8th @ 2 PM till 8 PM—Blood Drive

Visit givelife.org—enter code cosumc and schedule appointment or call Chris Ulvin @ 661-816-0038

Sunday—August 14th—Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

Wednesday—August 17th—Jethawks Skybox @ 7:00PM

Trustees—see Stan or Chris Ulvin for your tickets. This event will serve as August Trustee Meeting and Church Fellowship.

Sunday—September 11th—Church BBQ following Worship

Sunday—September 25th—Grace Resource Souper Sunday

See Janet Andrews to offer help in cooking and serving.

Monday—October 3rd—Grace 100 Hole Golf Challenge

Visit www.graceresources.org for more information on how to PLAY

Monday—October 31st—2nd Annual “Trunk and Treat”

Start thinking about your Trunk Theme. Prizes to be awarded.

Birthdays for August

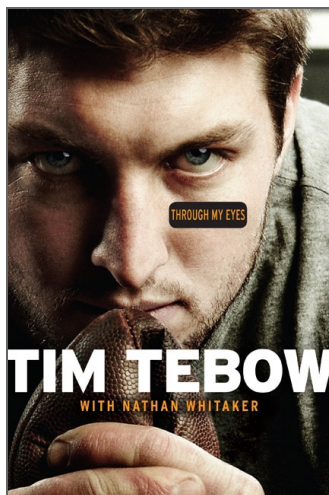
08/03—Bob Alvis; 08/04—Beverly Walden; 08/11—Jan Sheldon; 08/12—Tyrone Jordan; 08/13/07—Anthony Heller; 08/14—Barbara Shuping; 08/16—James Diaz; 08/21—Norma Guerrant; 08/27—Chris Ulvin
Special Blessings on Donna Pitcher as 08/16 is the birthday of her late husband Rick

Anniversaries in the Hot August Nights Month

08/09—Chuck and Patsy Nasser; 08/22/81—T.V. and Sue Hall; 08/25—Herman and Barbara Shuping;
Please contact Chris Ulvin—661-816-0038—with family dates that you would like published in our church newsletter.

Recommended Reading for August

Former University of Florida star quarter back, 2010 first-round draft pick for the Denver Broncos, and devout Christian Tim Tebow tells his story of his faith, his life, and his career in football in his new book



Through My Eyes. Tim's book gives NFL fans a first look into the heart of an athlete whose talent and devotion have made him one of the most provocative figures in football.

Tim's story gives God fans a first look into the

heart of faithful parents who trust in the Lord, teach their children in the way of the Lord, and share their faith in all aspects of life.

Through My Eyes is an encouraging story to enjoy and then share with football fans, homeschooling moms, pro-life activists, physical trainers, teenage boys, missionaries, coaches, and just about anyone.