

# Prayer Updates



**"Christ's Encounter with Guilty People" John 8:1-20**

Message by René Schlaepfer, March 25 & 26, 2006

## HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Alex Tabag – at Stanford, Scleroderma, very serious condition  
Dudley Josselyn – testing  
Jane Evers – still in RCU, stroke rehab  
Linda Davenport – at Stanford, pancreatitis, very serious  
Roger McGary, Jr. – testing  
Virginia Fair – still in ICU, improving

## Recent hospitalizations & surgeries:

Irene McCarty, Ladell Faulk, Larry Warren, Philip Walker, Robert Walters, Susan Irby, Buck Harris, Carl Cutshaw

## HOME WITH THE LORD

Melina Dwinell is now home with the Lord after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer.

## JOY & BLESSINGS

Congratulations to Bill & Patricia Fernald who are celebrating the birth of their first child, Landon William.

## Faith Community Church Update



Please pray that the Lord would provide affordable office space on the east-side of Santa Cruz. Info: 465-3344 or www.tlc.org/fcc

## Do you or someone you know need a STEPHEN MINISTER?

Stephen Ministers are now available to encourage individuals who have experienced a crisis or loss in their lives. If you know someone who could benefit from this ministry, please call our Pastor of Care, Gary Williams (465-3395). Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training.

## We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

## Christ's enemies attempt to set a trap...

*The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap... John 8:1-6a*

## Three things I need to know to enjoy Christ's forgiveness:

### 1. I'm not \_\_\_\_\_

*But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. John 8:7-9*

#### Two traps:

Being \_\_\_\_\_ about my sin  
Being \_\_\_\_\_ about my righteousness

### 2. I'm not \_\_\_\_\_

*Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. John 8:10-11a*

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1*

#### In Christ Jesus...

I am forgiven \_\_\_\_\_ ("...There is **now**...")  
I am forgiven \_\_\_\_\_ ("...**no** condemnation...")  
I am forgiven \_\_\_\_\_ ("...for those who are **in Christ Jesus**.")

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:17*

### 3. I can have a \_\_\_\_\_

*"Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:11b*

- Jesus does not \_\_\_\_\_ her
- Jesus does not \_\_\_\_\_ her
- Jesus does \_\_\_\_\_ her

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

There is only one answer to darkness: \_\_\_\_\_ !

*“Dear Heavenly Father: Be the light of my dark life. I am sorry for my sin. Thank you for forgiving me completely through the sacrifice of Christ — thank you for wiping out my guilt with your grace. I believe you are giving me a brand new life. Help me to follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and live in His light.”*

## Daily Meditations

*Brief daily devotions based on this weekend’s message*

*Memory Verse: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12*

### Monday

Read John 8:1-11. This is an amazing encounter with Christ. What is most striking to you in this account? Why?

What was most encouraging for you in last weekend’s sermon? Why?

What was most challenging to you? Why?

*Thank God today for the forgiveness you’ve experienced in your life. Thank Him for His compassion for you. Pray that as you study this passage this week you’ll be open to what He wants to teach you. Pray that you’ll be more gracious because of time spent studying His grace.*

### Tuesday

Read Isaiah 41:10, John 8:7-9 & Romans 8:31-39. What do you think Jesus’ presence meant to this woman? How can feeling alone leave you vulnerable?

What do these verses say about Jesus’ presence with you?

In what way do you feel like you’re isolated? How can you apply these scriptures to your life today?

Think about your friends and family. Write down their name(s) and one way you can encourage them with the truth of God’s constant presence with them.

*Thank God today that He never leaves you. Thank Him that nothing can separate you from God’s love. Talk to Him about the ways you’re feeling isolated. Ask Him to comfort you with the truth of His presence today. Pray that you’ll be an encouragement to the people you encounter.*

### Wednesday

Jesus said, “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone”. This saying reflects another teaching of Jesus: Read Matt. 7:1-5. Frankly, I like this passage when others are judging me, but I don’t like it as much when I want to judge others! By what measure does this say we will be judged?

Why am I allowed to judge or help others with their faults AFTER honest self-examination? (v. 5)

What causes you to become critical or judgmental at times?

How can you become more merciful?

*Ask God today to help you develop your “mercy muscles”!*

### Thursday

Jesus said to the woman, “Neither do I condemn you.” She found no condemnation in Jesus, not because what she had done was morally acceptable, but because he is the Savior who forgives sinners. Read Romans 8:1-4.

What truths here can help you handle feelings of guilt and unworthiness?

From these verses, how would you explain the gospel to someone who senses she is not “good enough” for God?

Often the one “casting stones” at us... is ourselves! Many of us feel like crucifying ourselves when we do something wrong. What do these verses in Romans have to say to someone who has this tendency?

*Thank God today that there is NOW NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

### Friday

Read John 8:11-12. What is the importance of the fact that Jesus is referred to as the “Light” so often (12 times) in John? What connection is there between turning away from sin and knowing that Jesus is the light of the world?

In what way do you feel as though you’re walking in the dark because of a nagging sin? What is the biggest obstacle for you when it comes to choosing God’s light over your darkness?

Write down at least two ways that John 8:12 gives you hope.

- 1.
- 2.

How does knowing that Jesus is the “light of the world” help you have a new life?

*Thank God today for sending His Son, Jesus, to be the Light of the world. Talk to Him about your struggles with desiring His light over darkness. Ask God to help you focus on His light and embrace the new life He offers you.*

### Saturday

*Please finish up any devotions you may have missed and be sure you know this week’s memory verse. Please be in prayer for the services this weekend as well as the Easter services that are fast approaching!*