

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Adrienne Gomes — twice weekly radiation at hospital for brain cancer treatment, plus weekly chemo at oncology for breast cancer

Carol Perrigo — cancer surgery

Chris Ramsey — Stanford, fork lift accident

Conner O'Brian (age 18 months at Valley Med) — fell 20 feet off a deck and cracked his skull, has a brain bleed

Gode Apon — gallstone surgery

John "Johnny" Stocker — born 9/9 NICU, beginning to gain weight

Ken Wantland — San Mateo Hospital, pacemaker

Leslie Douglas — partial shutdown of her pancreas, needs to clear up and have

Lucas Martinelli (parents Nicholas & Christina, niece of Teresa Bray) — infant at Stanford

Phyllis Russel — pacemaker (son Ken Wantland, daughter Shelly Hernandez)

Tristan Beverly (parents Nathan & Catherine) — at Stanford PICU, born 8/15 at 1 pound, 6 ounces, pray for healing of a brain bleed

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries: Kathleen Lineberry, Michael Murphy, Steve Harper, Nancy Rader

HOME WITH THE LORD

James Musitelli, a member of the Joyful Noise Sunday Class, is now home with the Lord. James was loved by all and known for his big smile and his kind heart. James was a true gentleman and will be so missed by many in our community.

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Demetrio Lopez in the loss of his mother, **Celestina Lopez**.

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. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update online at www.tlc.org/profiles.**

"When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people, he returned to Capernaum. At that time the highly valued slave of a Roman officer was sick and near death. When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some respected Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his slave. So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man. 'If anyone deserves your help, he does,' they said, **'for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us.'**

"So Jesus went with them. But just before they arrived at the house, the officer sent some friends to say, 'Lord, don't trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor. I am not even worthy to come and meet you. **Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.** I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it.'

"When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, **'I tell you, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!'** And when the officer's friends returned to his house, **they found the slave completely healed.'** *Luke 7:1-10 (NLT)*

What is Faith?

Faith is a _____ with a _____ to follow.

"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, **if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions?** Can that kind of faith save anyone? **So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.'** *James 2:14, 17 (NLT)*

_____ alone is not _____ .

"You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! **Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish!** Can't you see that **faith without good deeds is useless?**" *James 2:19,20 (NLT)*

How Important is Faith in the Life of the Believer?

1. Believers place _____ in the _____ work of _____ .

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law . . . **We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.** And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are." *Romans 3:21a,22 (NLT)*

2. The just _____ by _____ .

"So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, **'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'**" *Galatians 3:11 (NLT)*

3. It is the _____ way to please _____ .

“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” *Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)*

4. It separates _____ from the _____ .

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, **but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.**”
Psalms 20:7 (NIV)

“I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.”
1 Corinthians 2:5 (NLT)

“Be on guard. **Stand firm in the faith.** Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.”
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NLT)

Where is _____ asking you to _____ firm in _____ ?

Daily Meditations

Monday

What was the most encouraging or challenging message you heard from Sherwood Carthen this past weekend?

Read Hebrews 11:1-6. If it is impossible to please God without faith, faith must be one of the most important topics of study ever! What misconceptions do you think people have about faith?

As we prepare to delve into the concept of faith, how would you rate your own faith level?

What are some questions you have about faith?

Please ask God to bless the time as we, as a church, seek His teaching on the subject of faith. Pray that we as a church would become ever more faith-filled! Ask God specifically to increase your faith.

Tuesday

Read Matthew 9:18-30. In verses 22 and 29, what statement about faith does Jesus make?

How does this statement make you feel?

___ Perplexed ___ Uncomfortable
___ Excited ___ Encouraged

Why do you suppose that some people with genuinely great faith find that they are not always healed?

___ They didn't really have faith ___ God had other plans
___ Other: _____

What do you think Jesus meant by the statement “your faith has healed you”?

If there are apparently times when, all things being equal, God allows our faith in Christ's power to be the tipping point, the deciding factor in what He does in our lives, where do you need more faith?

Ask God to increase your faith!

Wednesday

Read Luke 7:36-50. In verse 50, what statement does Jesus make about faith?

What kind of an attitude is a result of faith, according to this story?

Do you show this kind of attitude toward Jesus regularly?

Today in prayer give thanks and adoration, just as the woman in the story did, for what Jesus has forgiven in your own life. Please pray also that the Wednesday night classes, which begin tonight, will have a positive effect on many lives!

Thursday

Several times in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus rebukes his disciples for having “little faith”. Read these passages and note what, in each passage, was the result of “little faith”:

Matthew 6:29-31:

Matthew 8:23-27:

Matthew 14:30-32:

Matthew 16:5-11:

Matthew 17:18-21:

If fear, worry, doubt, lack of power, and lack of understanding are results of “little faith,” what can more faith do for you?

How is your own faith level?

An encouragement: Remember that although Jesus criticizes “little faith,” he also asserts that faith “as small as a mustard seed” is enough. This means that we do not have far to grow—just an incremental increase in faith will reap great dividends!

Ask God today to give you “faith as small as a mustard seed.” Pray specifically about a mountain you would like to see moved in your life.

Friday

Read Matthew 8:5-10 and Luke 7:1-10. What is Jesus' response to this man's faith?

This is the only time in the Bible where Jesus is “astonished” or “amazed” at someone's faith. Why do you think he was amazed?

How can we have similar “amazing” faith?

Pray that God will give you this kind of faith. Pray specifically for challenges you will face today. Pray for TLC, too, as the “40 Days of Faith” begin this weekend!

Saturday

Please pray that the “40 Days of Faith,” beginning this weekend will have a profound effect on Twin Lakes Church and the entire Santa Cruz County. Pray also about your personal involvement regarding a 40 Days small group, a ShareFest project, the food drive, and more! Thanks!



“I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” *Matthew 17:20b (NIV)*