

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES UPDATE

Don Edwards (Lois Dickman's father, former missionary) – ER surgery after complications from cancer surgery

Roberly Bedayan – cancer treatment at Stanford

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS /SURGERIES

Gloria Daniel, Judy Powell, Norma Souza

HOSPICE CARE

Jane Evers

40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY (overview weekend 9/23-24)

Prayer Focus: GOD'S PROTECTION

"Whenever God determines to do a great work, He first sets His people to pray" – C.H. Spurgeon

Pray for...

... physical protection and good health for all leaders, their families and participants during the 40 Days of Community

... protection from distractions, worries, and concerns enabling all to focus completely on what God has for them during this campaign

... protection from discouragement for our pastors and leaders as seemingly impossible tasks mount prior to the Campaign beginning

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.

FACING YOUR FUTURE



"Miracles in Someone Else's Life"

Message by Ray Johnston, August 19 & 20, 2006

How God Meets Your Deepest Needs

"David served God's purpose in his generation..." Acts 13:36

R _____

"When Jesus saw their faith..." Mark 2:5

A _____

"Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd..." Mark 2:4

I _____

"Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'" Mark 2:7

There Is No _____

— Without _____

"We've become aloof instead of along side of. We need to look for every opportunity to come along side people. Why? Because people need to know there's a God who cares."
John R. W. Stott

S _____

"Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on." Mark 2:4

E _____

"This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'" Mark 2:12

"A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door... Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..."
He said to the paralytic, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.

This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'"
Mark 2:1-12

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Monday

Read Mark 2:1-12, Romans 5:1-2 & 1 Peter 1:3-9. How would you define faith? How do these verses describe faith?

When is it most difficult for you to have faith? Why?

Recall a time when you stepped out in faith. How did that impact your attitude? Your actions?

The paralytic's friends took a huge step of faith for him. Think about your relationships – who needs you to share your faith and confidence in Christ with them?

Thank God today for His faithfulness. Thank Him for the opportunities to have your faith grow. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to be someone's "stretcher-bearer". Ask God to keep stretching your faith.

Tuesday

Read Mark 2:4, John 16:33 & Philippians 4:12-13. What obstacles do you imagine the paralytic faced? What obstacles did his friends face? Think about your life right now. What obstacles are you facing?

How can an obstacle be a good thing? What is the connection between obstacles and faith? How have the obstacles that you have faced strengthened your faith?

Again, think of your family and friends. Who is facing an obstacle right now? How can you be one of their stretcher-bearers?

Thank God today for His involvement in your life. Thank Him for His commitment to growing you and your faith. Pray that you'll see obstacles as opportunities for God to work and your faith to grow. Ask God to give you opportunities to encourage those around you who may feel cornered by obstacles.

Wednesday

Read Mark 2:7 & John 1:14 & Hebrews 4:15-16. Think about what you know about the life and ministry of Jesus. What type of contact did He have with people? How does contact influence your impact in someone's life?

How has your life benefited from someone taking time to be involved?

What prevents you from stepping out and increasing contact with friends and family? How does this story encourage you? What did you learn in this story from the friends and from Jesus?

What if God had decided to save us from a distance – without sending Jesus to earth to become one of us and interact with us? How would that change your relationship with Him? How does knowing that God made the ultimate move to have contact with you help you step out in faith and increase your involvement in other's lives?

Thank God today that He sent His Son Jesus from heaven to earth just to reach you. Thank Him for His example for you to follow. Talk to God about the fears you have about reaching out and being involved. Ask God to give you the wisdom to know how to best make an impact on others' lives. Pray that your life will point people to Jesus.

Thursday

Read Lamentations 3:22-26, Mark 2:4 & 2 Peter 3:8-9. What's the longest you've waited to see the answer to a prayer? What did you learn while you waited?

What does perseverance have to do with faith? How did the paralytic's friends demonstrate perseverance?

What are the rewards of persevering? What makes it difficult for you to persevere?

In what area of your life do you feel as though you're waiting for God to answer? What have you learned during this wait?

Who in your life needs to be encouraged to not give up? How will you do that this week?

Thank God today that He has never given up on you. Thank Him for the many times past that you've seen Him work in your life even while you waited. Pray about the areas of your life where you're finding it hard to "stay with it" right now. Ask God to give you hope, a vision for the future and the strength to persevere.

Friday

Read Mark 2:12 & Ephesians 3:14-21. Recall a time when you received a gift that was wrapped in a misleading way. How do expectations impact your attitude? How can expectations be limiting?

Why does it sometimes feel safer to have no expectations? How does faith impact expectations?

Think about your life right now. In what area are you tempted to settle for low expectations from God? What would it look like to expect great things from God? How would that impact your actions and attitude?

How would being a person of great expectations impact your family and friends?

Thank God today that He is far beyond our expectations. Thank Him for His love for you that exceeds all your expectations of love. Talk to God about the areas of your life where you're tempted to settle for low expectations. Ask God to stretch your faith and increase your expectations. Pray that the miracles God performs in your life will point people to Him and cause others to praise Him.

Saturday

Please finish up any devotions you may have missed and be sure you've memorized the verse for this week. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that as we begin looking at what it means to have a Christian worldview that we will all be challenged and grow closer to God. Pray that Twin Lakes Church will be a beacon of hope in Santa Cruz County.



"Then Jesus said to the paralytic, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.

This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'"

Mark 2:10b-12