

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Irvin Smith – Stanford, extensive injuries requiring numerous surgeries (he was hit by a car)

Jay Fred – UCSF, complications following gall bladder surgery

Carolyn Rinkert (Bob Corbett’s mother) – Alzheimer’s

Rita Benbow – ruptured Achilles’ tendon

Recent hospitalizations / surgeries: Bob Walters, Kevin Muir

Hospice care: Dorothy Thrash

THE KAWAMOTO TRIPLETS ARE WALKING!

Share HIS Care has served the Kawamoto boys the first year of their life. Diana would appreciate continued help with Kai, Noa and Luka’s bathtime and lunchtime. Help is needed from 10am–noon, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 818-2515 if you’re interested.

THROUGH CANCER WITH CARE

Connect with others who understand, personal interaction & resources, encouragement & prayer. New time and place: Thursday, January 11th, begins with refreshments at 6:45, in the TLC Office Building lobby (Bldg 600). For more information, please call Jan, 462-2271 or Gerry, 476-8735, or go to www.tlc.org/care

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.

PEACE



“Starting with Personal Life Change”

Message by Mark Spurlock

January 6 & 7, 2007

Is peace even possible?

“I’m sick of hearing again and again, that there’s gonna be peace on Earth.” – U2

“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

3 stages of life change seen in the conversion of Paul Acts 9, 22, 26

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison...” Acts 22:3-4

1. _____

“About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’” Acts 22:6-7& 26:14

“Who are you, Lord?” I asked. ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.” Acts 22:8-9

God has been showing me _____ .

2. _____

“What shall I do, Lord?” I asked. ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’” Acts 22:10

“I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:16-18

I must turn from _____ in order to turn to _____ .

3. _____

“Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, ‘Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?’ Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 9:19-22

I was _____ but now I _____ .

*The three stages: “insight, turning, and transformation” are from the book *Conversion in the New Testament* by Richard Peace. Eerdmans, 1999.

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Monday

How have you seen personal peace make an impact on a large scale?

Think honestly about your life right now. How is peace (or a lack of peace) impacting your desire to make a difference?

Read Acts 22. What stands out to you most in Paul's conversion story?

What is your conversion story?

Thank God today for the peace He gives you. Talk to Him about the struggles you are experiencing. Pray that the peace you have in Christ will be a launching point for you to make a difference in the world.

Tuesday

Read Acts 22:6-9 & Ephesians 1:17-18. There was no question in Paul's mind that God wanted his attention! You can be sure that you are always on God's heart and mind. He wants to continue to love you, grow you and use you to make an impact.

Spend some extended time in prayer today. Pray that the prayer in Ephesians will be true of you today. Then spend some time quietly meditating on those verses. What is the attitude of your heart? Are there areas in your life that you're hoping God won't notice, areas where you are feeling arrogant or self-sufficient? What is God showing you today?

Wednesday

Read Psalm 34:14, Acts 22:10, 26:16-18. This is where the rubber meets the road. Insight without change does not make any difference in your life. Change involves turning.

How does knowing that God has something in store for you – something that He designed just for you – encourage you to choose to turn?

Think back to your time in prayer yesterday. In order to embrace what God is showing you what do you need to turn from? Be honest – God knows everything anyway! What is holding you back from turning? Place those stumbling blocks at God's feet and ask Him to show you the way around them. Now thank God for what you are turning towards. Ask Him to give you the strength and courage to continually choose to turn toward Him and His plans for you.

Thursday

Read Acts 9:19-22, Romans 12:1-2 & 2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:17. Whereas turning from something is our choice, transformation is God's work in our lives.

Think back to your conversion. Write down five ways you have seen transformation in your life since then.

In what area of your life do you see God transforming you right now? How has that impacted you?

What is the connection between God's transforming work in your life and making a difference in the world?

Thank God today for His transforming power in your life. Pray that you will be a willing participant in His work. Talk to Him about your desire to make an impact. Ask Him to give you the opportunities to make a difference. Pray that you will have faith and confidence in God's leading.

Friday

Read Philippians 3. This is such a great passage! How does Paul describe the transformation that took place in his life?

In what way does this passage challenge you?

In what way does it encourage you?

Write down two things you can apply to your life today.

Thank God today for giving you the opportunity to study the life of Paul. Pray that God will continue to transform you to be more like Jesus. Pray that you will be an encouragement to those around you and that God will you use to be an agent of His peace in the world.

Saturday

Be sure you know this week's memory verse and finish up any devotions you may have missed. Thank God today for His love for you. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that people will be challenged and encouraged.



Memory Verse

"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith." Philippians 3:7-9