

Prayer Updates

JOY & BLESSINGS

Toby & Julie Kraft, welcome daughter, **Laurel Jeannette Kraft**, born 2/9; she was in NICU for a few extra days with an infection. Grandparents are Dan & Janice Kraft and great-grandmother, Jeannette Kraft.

Jon Coso and Amanda Travers welcome their son, **Mason Keith Coso**, born 2/11; great grandparents are Darrell & Donna Merriman.

A valentine's baby! **Hayden Kenneth Jilka** was born to Nathan and Samantha; maternal grandparents are Bob and Debbie Barry, paternal grandparents are Gerry and Mardell Jilka.

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Artie Meek – open heart surgery

Barbara Smiley – bronchial pneumonia

Irvin Smith – San Leandro Hospital (recovering from being hit by a car)

Joseph Rojas – NICU (Dominican), born 1/13

Marion Fuhry – lung problems

Marilyn Cantlay – broken leg

Patti Holland – spinal fusion of her lower neck

Tammy Culver – testing

Recent hospitalizations /surgeries: Gene Belle, Robert Walters, Janice Zucchi, babies Grace Hoy, Juliann Van Wickler, Laurel Kraft

Hospice care: Dorothy Thrash, Jane Evers

NEW Share HIS Care Team

Pray as a "Share HIS Care" team is being formed to mobilize volunteers to support Karla and Brad Bogard, helping them to accomplish the necessities of life and allowing them to focus on Karla's healing, their relationship with the Lord and one another, after her major cancer surgery scheduled for March 8. If you have an interest in participating, please email contact information to Susie@tlc.org.

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.

Bringing Out THE BEST in Others

HOW TO LEAD LIKE JESUS

"How to Lift People to a New Level"

Part 3 • Message by René Schlaepfer
February 17 & 18, 2007
2 Corinthians 7

In the first two weeks of this series, we looked at how Jesus leads us. Today let's see how the Apostle Paul practiced these principles, and brought out the best in others...

Six keys to leading others into a better future

1. Extend

"I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you."
2 Corinthians 7:3

2. Expect

"I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds." 2 Corinthians 7:4

"I am glad I can have complete confidence in you!" 2 Corinthians 7:16

Question:

Do I expect the _____ or the _____ from people around me?

3. Exhibit

"When we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within." 2 Corinthians 7:5

4. Express

"But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus... He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever." 2 Corinthians 7:6,7

"See what godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done... By all this we are encouraged." 2 Corinthians 7:10,11,13

5. Excite

"But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

6. Explain

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

"From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God..." 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Monday

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-18. It is easy or hard for you to see people through this lens of grace?

Look back over your notes from this past weekend's message. Which of the main points is easiest for you? Which is hardest? Why?

As we did a couple weeks ago, name three people you'd like to "build up". They could be the same people you named last time, or three new names:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is one specific way you could be a Christ-like leader and bring out the best in each of these lives this week?

Pray for the names on your list, and ask God to help you see ways you could lead each of these people to a higher level.

Tuesday

Read 2 Corinthians 7:2-4. Paul expresses real love for the Corinthians here, even though they were the church that gave him the most trouble. Our friends, children, employees, and others also need to be reminded that as Christians our love for them is not based on their performance. To whom have you expressed this kind of love lately, and how? Who needs to hear this from you? Make plans now to communicate this specifically to everyone on your list from yesterday.

Pray that your leadership of others will be based on real love, and not other motivations.

Wednesday

Read 2 Corinthians 7:13-16. It's remarkable to me how Paul expresses such confidence in a Corinthian church that does not have a stellar track record. Do you tend to expect the best or the worst from those closest to you? How do your expectations influence their lives?

Notice that Paul is very specific about what he praises the Corinthians for. He does not praise them for their unity or their orderliness, because, as we read elsewhere in this letter, that would be lying! But he is very sincere about their strengths. Similarly, what specific strengths can you praise in the people on your list from Monday?

continued 

Wednesday (continued)

Name Specific strength

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray for these people, and make plans to put your affirmation to them in writing!

Thursday

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-9. Here comes the hard part for many of us: Challenging those we love to greater heights! Looking at the names from Monday, how do you want to challenge each person to greater heights?

Name Challenge

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Notice (verse 8) even the Apostle Paul does not "command" these people. He gives advice and makes suggestions and issues inspiring challenges.

Even harder than issuing challenges is receiving them! How are you at taking advice? Thin skinned? Easily offended and defensive? Or eager to learn and grow?

Ask God to help you both give and get challenges to grow, because we need this from one another to grow!

Friday

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and 2 Corinthians 9:8. Have you noticed that the gospel of grace is central to everything Paul says and does? He has one goal as he leads others: To bring them closer to Jesus, and to help them understand the riches we have lavished on us through Christ!

Do you continually explain God's grace through Christ to the people you lead? Look at the names on your list. How can you do this for them more effectively this week? Remember to do this in a gentle and respectful, non-preachy way.

Pray that the people on your list will better understand God's loving grace toward them!

Saturday

Please pray for the weekend services, and complete any devotions you may have missed.



Memory Verse

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

