



grace connected

Fall 2009

Be a Worship Pleader!

By Mike Sciarra

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote "Our hearts have room for only one all-embracing devotion, and we can only cleave to one Lord". Matthew 6:24 ends with these words of Jesus Christ, "You can't serve God and money". The word translated "money" is mamona, Aramaic for mammon. The history of the word is interesting. It was not a bad word, from a root meaning to "entrust"; it was anything a person entrusted to a banker or safe deposit of some kind. In time it came to mean not what is entrusted but what you trust in. Spelled with a capital M, it came to stand for anything other than the true God in which you put your trust. Jesus personified wealth or possessions of all kinds as a competing god, an object of worship, a rival to the true God. Service to both this false god and the true God is incompatible.

Jesus knows people. He knew then and now that people get mixed up in pursuing multiple objects of worship. It puts us in a destitute, bankrupt position; which is what Matthew 6:25-34 is all about, people who fixate, worry and are anxious about temporary things when they should be focused on eternal realities. Jesus is speaking of wholeheartedly following, serving, loving, and obeying Him; seeking first His rulership and His righteousness.

Serving God alone leads to true worship. In one sense all believers are really "worship leaders"; showing people in their sphere of influence what it means to be devoted to either things or God. The other day I sent an email with a typo in it: I wrote "worship pleaders" instead of "worship leaders". Someone caught it and wrote back that it is actually true: We are pleading with God to do what we cannot. We are looking to Him to provide what we do not have. We are dependent on Him.

God wants "worship pleaders", those who worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24), with their whole hearts. It reminds me of Psalms 120-134, the "psalms of ascent" that pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem to worship would sing as they took the trip to the highest city in Palestine. Whoever traveled there spent much of their time ascending, going uphill. Spiritually the trip pictured a life lived towards God; developing in maturity; pressing on towards the goal of the upward call of God, Phil. 3:14. For us, it means going to God continually with everything that is on our hearts, receiving what He gives us and developing deeper in life with Christ.

Psalm 130:1-2 says, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!" In whatever situation you find yourselves today, go to God - let it lead you to Him not away - and be a "worship pleader" - plead with Him on behalf of your life, your family, your co-workers, your friends, relatives and neighbors. Plead with Him for the church of Jesus Christ worldwide, for His people to love His Word and prayer; for the church to reach the communities in which they reside with love, compassion and the gospel. Plead with Him to do what only He can do, for His glory and our good.

"Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications."

Psalm 130:1-2

a place
to grow
in
faith

Women's Retreat- November 13-15

Are you looking for a weekend away from your busy schedule to focus on your relationship with God? Are you looking for an opportunity to make new friends and to fellowship with other sisters in our body? Are you hungry for "home style" meals that you don't have to prepare? Does soaking and relaxing in a pool of hot springs bring a smile to your face?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should join us this November at the Calvary Chapel Conference Center in Murrieta Hot Springs for Grace Women's Retreat 2009.

This year, we have the privilege of having Lois "B" Mayhue share from God Word regarding "Living for God's Glory". "B" is the wife of Dick Mayhue. The Mayhue's roots were at Grace Brethren Long Beach. Dick is currently serving as an elder at Grace Community Church. He is also the provost at The Master's College and the dean and executive senior vice president for the seminary. "B"'s primary occupation is: being a helpmeet to Dick, co-leading the Seminary Wives Fellowship and teaching/disciplining women. She is also the mother of two grown children, and a grandmother to two precious little ones. You will be blessed by her heart for the Lord and her transparent and practical way she lives out her life for Him.

Cost: \$ 160.00

Location: Calvary Chapel Conference Center – Murrieta Hot Springs

Space is limited! Sign-up and make a deposit of \$60 to reserve your spot this Sunday at the Information Kiosk!!!

***Check out this and other upcoming ladies' events on our church website under "Women's Ministries".



Where do the High Schoolers go after the 4th of July?

Hume Lake, of course!

This year was no exception. We piled in 41 High Schoolers, Jr. Highers, and camp counselors into 6 vehicles and caravanned up the mountain to beautiful Hume Lake!!!



The theme this year was "Hey Rube!" This is a rallying call or cry for help, used in the middle 19th century by circus people. Throughout the week, we were challenged by different speakers to be called into action as believers, to be salt and light, and to be willing to answer, "here am I, send me." "Hey Rube!" was a catch phrase to help us remember that we are to be the "called out ones".

Aside from the scheduled fun times during Recreation (daily game times), we had a great time bonding with one another and making new friends during meals, free times, Cabin discussions, Bible memorization times, and crazy Spirit Day prep times! Hume is always a special week set aside for the teens to be refreshed from their everyday lives and to intentionally reconnect with God and each other. It was very evident to each of the counselors that God was moving in mighty ways in many of the lives of our teens, spiritually and relationally.

Prior to receiving the cabin assignments, we prayed for specific cabin arrangements. Although this request was not granted, God provided something better! We praised God for the care and gifts that He showered upon us all week long -- everything from serving brothers that helped get the girls luggage to their cabins, putting us together on one team (one boys team and one girls team), even down to giving us the silly team name and team color that we had talked about! To top it all off, our girls team came home as Hume Lake Champions of the week ☺

Thank you Lord, for granting us such an amazing week of focusing on your power and our responsibility! Thank

you for prompting the parents of the teens to sacrifice the time and funds to send our youth to camp each year. Help us to hold one another accountable for the commitments that were made on the mountain. May You continue to mold and perfect our hearts and lives even as we reflect upon the time that we've had and dwell upon the verses that we memorized this year at Hume!



Face-to-Face

By Carol Gilbertson

In the last 5 years, since I became a grandmother, many of my learning experiences have come from something a grandchild said.

Just the other day, as we were riding in the car, we somehow came to the topic of what Jesus looks like. I think we had been talking about what was real on TV and what was not, how there really were such things as frogs but the frogs on TV that wear clothes and talk and sing were not real -- anyway, I was concerned that Adam, the 5-year-old, not be confused about whether Jesus was real or not -- silly me!

I began a long explanation about how there were no cameras when Jesus was on earth and no one had painted a picture of Him then, so that although we know a little bit about how He looked from some things that are in the Bible, we don't really know what He looks like and won't know until we see Him in heaven -- and won't that be wonderful when that happens?

To my amazement and great joy, Adam had absolutely no problem with my explanation, nor any difficulty with the concept that we didn't know what Jesus looked like -- he didn't even seem to need my full explanation, responding almost immediately with, "I don't care what Jesus looks like, I just love Him!"

That got me thinking about the difference between us and children, who have little need for concrete images or so-called facts to convince them of God's love -- they just come to Him in childlike faith and love Him because of Who He is, not what He looks like.

There are great paintings, many of them well-loved, that portray Jesus according to the artists' conceptions of what Jesus looks like: some famous ones that come to mind are of Jesus praying in the Garden, Jesus at the door of our heart, Jesus with the children, and one of the most famous, the Head of Christ by Sallman. But seeing these is nothing like it will be to see the real and living Lord.

I made note of a few passages of Scripture that speak of those who saw and who will see the Lord:

- John 20:24-29 is the story of His appearance to the disciples and especially to Thomas; Jesus specifically blesses all who believe even though they have not seen Him.
- I Corinthians 13:12 speaks to us of the promise of knowledge and fellowship and indescribable glory when we see Him face to face.
- Revelation 1:13-18 is further recognition of the mystery and glory and power that we will see when we see Christ.

I highly anticipate the time when I will see Jesus face-to-face, will see the love, the glory, the power, and the holiness in His eyes. But for now, the purest expression I have heard of childlike love for Jesus is the one that came from my little grandson: "I don't care what Jesus looks like, I just love Him!"

Do You Like to Help People Find Their Way?

Join the Connecting Team!

(a ministry that meets the needs of Grace Church visitors and regular attendees)

To join the following, contact one of the following!

Outside Greeters..... Steven Zuniga at zuniga.steven@sbcglobal.net

1st Hour Inside Greeters..... Mark & Christi Castleberry at mark@mkelectronics.com

2nd Hour Inside Greeters..... David Andritch at dandritch@graceorange.org

1st Hour Ushers..... Norm Schrock at nschrock@me.com

2nd Hour Ushers..... Jim Songer at songfambus@att.net

Information Kiosk..... Mark Kreider at mark@wondermedia.com

Looking Back on VBS



Missions



Crafts



Worship



Fun activities for all



Teaching of God's Word



Drama



FALL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

College Joshua Tree Retreat

October 30- November 1

Camping, climbing, hang time, quality quiet time, and great fellowship are what you can expect. Cost is \$40.

Contact Brian Zuniga at bzuniga@graceorange.org. You won't want to miss it.



Daylight Savings Ends

Sunday, November 1

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night, October 31.

We would love to see you here on Sunday morning.



BAPTISM

Sunday, November 8

If you are interested in being baptized or learning more about baptism, contact the church office.

Praise Dinner

Sunday, November 22

5:00PM

At Evangelical Christian Credit Union, in Brea. Enjoy a potluck style dinner, great fellowship, and a time of worship and thanksgiving.

Be sure to save the date.

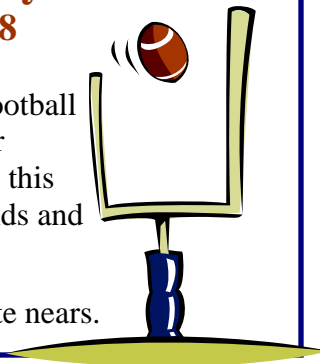


Men's Tailgate Party

Saturday, November 28

If you love watching college football or are a UCLA or a USC fan or alumni you won't want to miss this opportunity to invite your friends and cheer on your team.

More details to come as the date nears.



Looking Forward to Christmas: A Family Event

Sunday, November 29

Come hangout with other families, make an advent candle wreath and enjoy some great snacks! Questions?

Contact Bryan or Tina Bush at (714) 637-4453.



"The Reason For Everything"

Saturday, December 5
9:30AM-2:30PM

Theology seminar taught by Matthew Holbrook. Geared towards high school and college age, but everyone is welcome!

Questions? Contact Matthew Holbrook at mholbrook@actionlife.com.



Candlelight Christmas

Sunday, December 20

More info to come!
Invite your friends!

Snap Shots

June 2009-September 2009



(Left to Right: Watercolor with Pete, Popsicles and Praise, HS Big Beach Wednesday, Big Bang Friday)

Fall Calendar: October-December

Jr. High Team Competitions Start	October 28	Men's Tailgate Party	November 28
College Joshua Tree Retreat	Oct. 30- Nov. 1	A Family Christmas Event	November 29
Daylight Savings Ends	November 1	Jr. High All Nighter	December 4
Day of Generosity	November 1	The Reason for Everything	December 5
HS Big Crazy Fashion Show	November 4	Bread and Cup	December 13
Baptism	November 8	LifeBuilders Christmas Party	December 13
Veteran's Day	November 11	Men's Breakfast	December 19
Men's Breakfast	November 21	Candlelight Christmas	December 20
Praise Dinner	November 22	No Regular Activity	December 23
No Regular Activity	November 25	Office Closed	December 24-25
Thanksgiving	November 26	Jr. High Christ Year Party	December 30
Office Closed	November 26-27	Office Closed	Dec. 31- Jan. 1



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