



The
FOUNTAIN
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Intentionally Growing, and #LivingSENT for Jesus



The
Fountain
Christian Church

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Three Stories of Being United in Christ

By Pastor Sam Sears

In response to the growing division in our country which was triggered by the murder of George Floyd, I have been sharing frequently about the unity we can have in Christ. In sermons, in our prayer event, in conversations, and in my own prayers, I have reflected how, before Christ, some Jewish people would call Gentiles “dogs,” and yet, after Christ, they would refer to those same people as their brothers and sisters. One of the most amazing examples of this newfound unity was with the apostle John.

John was very much a Jewish person, steeped in his own culture, and his Jewish culture largely hated the Samaritans. They were “half breeds,” created by mixing Jewish and Gentile people. The Assyrians did this intentionally, with the idea that displacing people from their homeland and allowing new individuals to interbreed with the remaining locals would create a new culture, one that would be dependent on them, as opposed to having any kind of national pride to resist outside control.

While we don’t fully know the details of John’s heart in this matter, we do know that he went from wanting to call fire down on the Samaritans in Luke 9:54 to seeing them as his brethren regardless of what the culture around him may have thought. Those people he once wanted dead by heavenly judgment had responded to the Gospel as preached by Philip. When the church dispatched John and Peter, they ended up praying for their newfound family in Christ and a miracle occurred: they spoke in tongues, like on the day of Pentecost, demonstrating that the same Holy Spirit that lived in Jewish believers also lived in Samaritan believers. The Book of Acts continued the theme of reuniting those outside of the Jewish world with the creator God, and it should continue today.

During our current social climate, our current unity in Christ can be overshadowed by the growing divide and pushes for increased racial division. There were two instances recently that made me smile at the way God unites people of different races, cultures, economic classes, and all types of backgrounds.

I’m a hillbilly from Kentucky. I grew up in a largely poor, evangelical white town. I confess that I didn’t have a lot of cultural contact from outside my narrow little slice of life, at first. It expanded through a few moves, and then really exploded when I lived in Alaska, the most diverse state capital in these United States. There, it was typical to hear 3-4 different languages when walking through the grocery store and to think nothing of it.

I unfortunately saw racism in my hometown, and even among friends and family, when I was younger. I never understood it. When parents named me after a biracial basketball player, there was some drama in the family about it — at least that’s what I have been told. As a kid, I played with whoever wanted to

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play. This caused some shock when, as the people we encountered in our town slowly became more diverse, I didn’t care. I can remember a family member telling me at about age 4 not to play with certain kids because I might get AIDS. On the flip side, I know of more than one family who, while living in an area where white folk were the minority, were bullied because of the color of their skin. From Mr. Rogers to G.I. Joe, my heroes were diverse, and from a young age, I caught onto the idea that we are the human race, and racism was, simply put, dumb and hateful, wherever it came from, and to whomever it was directed.

I still in some ways think of myself as someone from a small Kentucky farm, where everyone looks the same, likes the same things, came from the same places, and knows everybody’s business. I had a nice moment the other day, when I had a certain awareness of how far I am from that overly homogenized life. Not that my hometown or its sameness was inherently bad, but I became increasingly thankful for being able to meet more and unique people as I’ve followed God’s direction as to where to serve. It’s been nice to broaden my horizon a bit, to see that God is God all over the globe, and not just in my small hometown.

I was driving one of our congregation members to get a prescription the other day, and it occurred to me that here I was in my pickup truck, a Kentucky boy, in a camo hat at the time no less, hanging out with someone who was born in Africa, English was their third language, their grandmother was a queen and they were a doctor. You know what brought us together? Christ. I look forward to meeting more of my brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the world when we get to Heaven and to learn how God worked in their own unique circumstances, because God is God all over the globe, and I want to hear more of His stories through the people he touches.

As you may know by now, we have recently begun renting out our building to a Hispanic- speaking church. They are here a few nights when we are not, and it’s wonderful that they can reach a section of our community that I cannot. Pastor Ernesto’s English is much better than my Spanish, which is practically nonexistent. As we came together to discuss the opportunity, we had a great moment where we sought God’s will in the matter. Pastor Ernesto opened us in prayer, in Spanish, and I closed us in prayer, in English. God understood both. God knew the heart behind every word, and it was no barrier for Him. While God was not unaware of our different backgrounds or languages, in His eyes, it was two of His children, siblings, praying together, seeking their father. We need more of that these days.

Welcome July!

By Carrie Guy, Associate Pastor

Welcome July! I have to admit while April and May seemed like the longest months ever, June went by pretty quickly. I often fight the need to get the year over with as quickly as possible and choose to be in the moment, learn the lessons, meet God in the midst of a life I wish would hurry up and normalize.

So what does a Pastor do when the world shuts down? Well I can say our office has been just as busy as we try to pivot every five minutes and adjust to the changes in our world. We are still trying to meet the needs in our community and congregation. Note cards get sent out and calls get made instead of Bible study, or online videos and zoom meetings take place. Church is open on Sundays but it still doesn't look like it used to. We know that is hard.

We also are working on projects around here. This is a great time to reorganize and purge so that our church is ready when life gets back to normal. We are also finding ways to connect within our community. Besides the meal deliveries, we've also done a photo contest, signs for our High School seniors and are now working on a project to support our local police department. July 1st I will be going out to VPD headquarters with cards and cookies from Max's Cookies for our police and their support staff. It will be a way to let them know that the Fountain Christian Church supports them. We are so grateful for the town we live in and we want it to reflect in the way we reach out.

I've been touched over the last couple of months as we have connected with people who hear about us online, are looking for a church to help them in the midst of life, and we get to see more of the people in our community. I'm trying to be wise with interactions, spend this time learning more about Christ and be intentional with the time I give to family, community and church family.

We've faced a lot of needs within our church in the last couple of months with illness, financial hardships and death. We've also been able to celebrate in accomplishments and weddings as well, that has kept us so busy. We know some of you may have a need or a praise we don't know about, but we'd love to hear from you. Let us know how we can walk alongside you in this crazy season of life.

You are still part of our family and we love you so much. Staff is often praying for the needs in our church and we would love to know how we can pray for you. God bless!

Congratulations Graduates!

We had the privilege of honoring a number of graduates this year and we would like to take one more opportunity to say Congratulations to each of you!



8th Grade:
Alina Garcia & Jeremiah Shane

High School:
Eve Gatto, Ryan Pendleton, Tyler Richwine, Krista Romer, Jenna Shane, & Praise Subejano

College:
Shelley Huff, Carol Gibbons & Valerie Ronk

Bible Names

U	U	B	O	E	Y	M	D	J	S	O	N	M	O
H	K	E	W	L	S	H	D	B	T	V	O	H	U
A	A	L	O	V	O	A	T	A	C	H	A	E	H
R	S	A	L	D	N	B	P	A	V	A	H	A	J
E	O	C	A	A	J	R	L	A	I	I	I	L	S
H	L	I	Y	S	O	A	T	C	J	L	D	N	H
T	O	W	S	S	S	H	E	A	D	S	O	O	T
S	M	E	M	L	H	A	L	A	B	D	H	G	I
E	O	H	E	U	U	M	U	M	O	E	U	A	M
E	N	T	A	K	A	L	A	J	O	E	L	A	O
U	E	T	M	E	O	M	P	W	U	S	E	A	T
E	A	A	E	J	E	S	U	S	E	V	E	A	H
A	R	M	N	H	O	J	E	M	C	S	S	S	Y
Y	A	N	O	S	J	A	O	L	U	A	S	E	L

TIMOTHY
JESUS
ABRAHAM
MATTHEW
DAVID
CAIN
PAUL
NOAH
ABEL
LUKE
JOSHUA
MARY
CALEB
SOLOMON
EVE
ESTHER
GOLIATH
SAUL
MOSES
JOHN

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 PM ENliveN Youth	2 10 AM Matthew Study	3 6:30 AM Men's Group	4
5 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship	6 12 PM Women's Bible Study	7	8 5:30 PM ENliveN Youth	9 10 AM Matthew Study	10 6:30 AM Men's Group	11
12 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship	13 12 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Stephen Ministry	14	15 5:30 PM ENliveN Youth	16 10 AM Matthew Study	17 6:30 AM Men's Group	18
19 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship 1 PM Council Meet.	20 12 PM Women's Bible Study	21	22 5:30 PM ENliveN Youth	23 10 AM Matthew Study	24 6:30 AM Men's Group	25
26 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship	27 12 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Stephen Ministry	28	29 5:30 PM ENliveN Youth	30 10 AM Matthew Study	31 6:30 AM Men's Group	

Missions

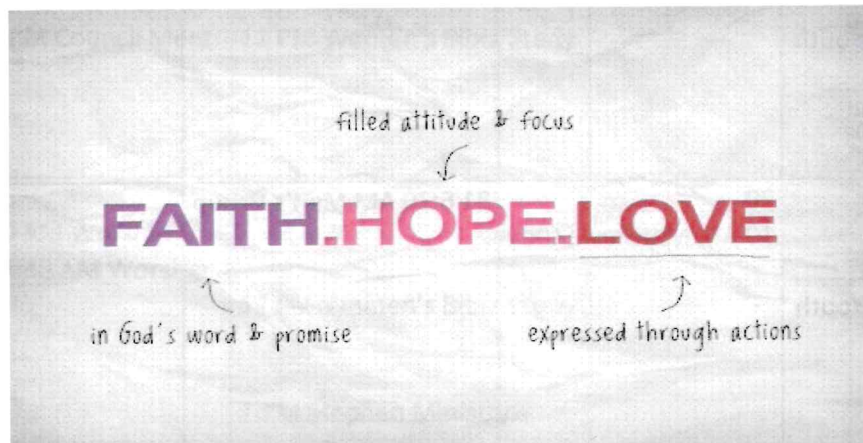
By Judy Jameson

As we are maneuvering through the obstacles, concerns and fears of the present times, we continue to search for new opportunities to share the Hope, Peace, Love and healing that we have when we belong to Christ. We are not alone in this; our missionaries are dealing with the changes even more acutely. Please continue to pray for them and for our loving responses for their needs.

The Frederiksens, a family who serves outside the US, were to come home this summer and share what they have been doing with us at church, but those plans had to be cancelled, there were no flights home! They have many family considerations that will need to be met, please be praying for them. Please pray for Clementa's mother who lives in San Diego and is isolated in a senior care facility and broke her hip, Clementa has a fracture in her foot that may require surgery and their oldest son, Ian, just graduated from high school and will need to return to the US to continue his education.

They do have many success stories from their work, even though some original plans were changed. With Crosslink Development International they have served over 45 families with weekly groceries for COVID relief and have started new women's health training groups. They have trained health workers with weekly ZOOM bible study meetings on how to disciple others, using a program called Zume. They are excited to share how lives are being changed. They are also working with the villagers to provide health care information for their animals. We do have video they sent that we hope to share with you soon about their work.

Please continue to pray for the family and pray for their financial support. If you want to help them out, you may send a check to the church, FCC or The Fountain, with a notation in the memo: Frederiksens.



Second Service Continues to Grow



We held our Second Service outside for three weeks and it was a great experience! We had quite a few participants and by God's mercy the weather was perfect! COVID has pushed us to new and different ways of doing things and a few of those have actually been enjoyable. The outside service may just show up again from time to time.

We are now back inside and welcome you to join us as we worship. We have plenty of room to continue being cautious as we remain faithful to the Word of God. Hebrews 10:25 *"...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."*

Attendance & Giving

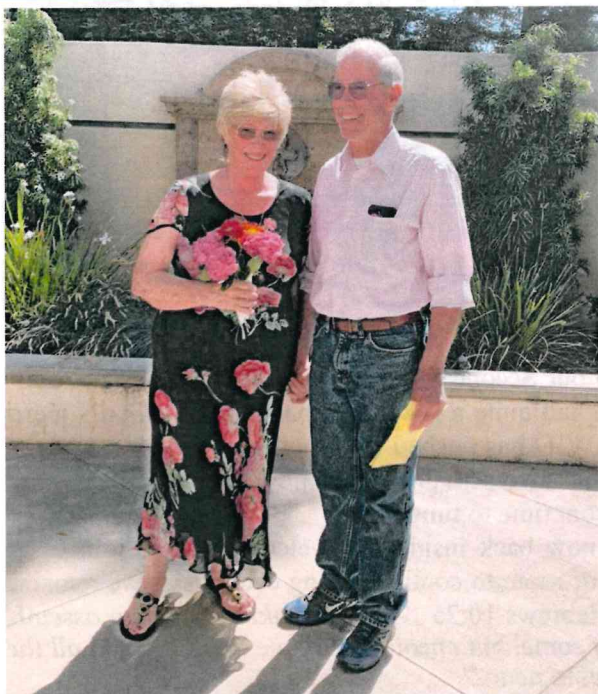
June 2020

Date	Attendance	Giving
June 7	45	\$3,700.00
June 14	56	\$3,086.05
June 21	74	\$3,082.00
June 28	42	\$1,916.00
Online Giving		\$6,840.00
Total		\$18,624.05



Congratulations Chris & Carol Stone

Married June 19, 2020



Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 2020

Kale Wilson	2	Robert Rouch	27
Joyce Hogan	4	Jude Sanchez	27
John Lauffenberger	4	Virginia Huff	29
Ana Morales	4	Joe Engelbrecht	31
Brad Yale	5	Sharon Turl	31
Debi Engelbrecht	9		
Ed Kesterson	12		
Frankie Parker	12		
Heather Sears	17		
Cienna Reynaga	19	Bob & Jan MacLean	8
Mona Rouch	19	Don & Peggy Jones	24
Phil Parker	23	Roger & Ann Johnson	27
Jim Barlogio	25		
Bexleigh Stowers-Quilantan	25		

Happy Anniversary!

Prayer Concerns

July 2020

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith!

Our Nation and Leaders

Teachers & Students in Visalia

Health

Ana Morales, Ashley Banuelos, Barbara Grant, Cindy Marks, Donna Eastin, Frank Henley, Jean Lamb, Kevin Guy, Lynnette Johnson, Pam Shattuck, Pauline Gurule, Rick Hamilton, Ruth Kurihara, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

Cancer

Charles Douglass, Hazel Bahrenburg, Jiggy Greene, Jim Ramsey, Joe Grant, Joe Ryan, Michael Elder, Mike Brazil, Olly Ajluni, Shannan Ajluni

Other Needs

Debbie Englebrecht (back surgery went well, pray for recovery)

Nina Suttles (Vision)

Sheila Wharton (Heart attack)

Military

Andie Richwine - , Brett Boland - Virginia, Jason Mariel - Afghanistan, Matthew Calhoun - Fort Knox, Michael Reid - Fort Worth, TX, Preston Correa - Marines, RJ Ajluni - Navy