



Faith Newsletter

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2010

FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK...

Pastor Paul Wenz

Time Together: Vacations Part II

The Bible never talks about “vacations” as such, but it does talk about a related concept: Sabbaths. You may know that this is the Hebrew word for “rest.” It is also the name given to the 7th day of the week, Saturday, called the Day of Rest (Ex 16:23). For Christians who understand Jesus as the One who gives us true rest in the Lord (Heb 4:9), Sunday is our Sabbath celebration, for that is the day that commemorates Jesus’ resurrection (John 20:1). That’s why the early Christians began meeting together for worship on Sundays to hear God’s Word and to celebrate the “breaking of bread,” or the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7).

It is this Biblical idea of rest that gives us a Christian perspective of vacationing—time away from daily routines with a purpose! This is actually the Christian view of all things that God

gives us. Offerings are given not out of obligation, but for the purpose of spreading the Gospel and furthering God’s Kingdom. The words we say should also be spoken with purpose—not out of anger or complaint, but for encouraging and sharing God’s love.

So what is the purpose behind a vacation? Rest is good, but resting in the Lord’s

purpose is even better! God’s purpose for a family, then, is to support each other in prayer and to grow together in love (I’d encourage you to get your Bible and read: John 13:34; Rom 12:10; and Heb 10:24). Especially in 1 Timothy 5:8, God warns us that not to take care of our own family is to deny the faith! This means that we should do all we can to care for our families’ physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. I believe this includes taking time to



Pastor Wenz and family at Bryce Canyon

Continued on next page...

**How does God
“bring His
Children home”?
Through YOU!
When YOU invite
them to hear
the Word of God
with YOU!**

**Invite
a family member,
neighbor,
Co-worker, fellow
student, or friend
to join YOU on
Sunday
in attending.**

**Worship
Services
8:00 a.m.
Traditional
10:30 a.m.
Contemporary**

**Sunday School
available Pre-K to
High School
at 9:15 a.m.
Adult Bible Study
Classes
at 9:15 a.m.**

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“Bringing God’s Children Home”

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And at www.Facebook.com/faithriverside

be together as a family, whether away from the home for a day, week or longer. In a news story recently (Aug. 3, 2010 at: <http://abcnews.go.com>), I read about Tom and Kathy Crafton who sold their two houses, cars, motorcycles and left their promising careers in order to sail around the world for 7 years with their three children (the youngest seven at the time). They lived together in the sailboat's main cabin all that time in a space not bigger than an minivan. Now that was an extreme vacation in the sense that they vacated everything in their lives. However, in the principle of a Sabbath Rest, they did it with a very specific purpose—that of raising their 3 children to learn the importance of loving and depending on each other as a family. In the Kathy's own words, they did it because, "As we looked in the future, I didn't want to see my teenagers on the telephone in their room with their own TV. I wanted to really know who they were ... to know them and they to know us, not the babysitter or the nanny."¹

I also want my children to know that I love them and want to know each of them personally. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is our time. Without spending time with our loved ones, how can we really know them? It's no wonder that some of my best memories growing up are from family vacations with my dad and step-mother and my four siblings at Pismo Beach, Mammoth Lakes and other great places.

I feel blessed to be able to do the same thing with my family now. During the last week of July, Kedma and I took our five children on a trip to southern Utah to see Zion and Bryce National Parks and a few other not-so-seen places like Cedar Breaks National Monument and Kolob Canyon to the north of Zion. We hiked the canyons to see waterfalls from 1500 foot cliffs in Zion and to wind our way through the maze of "hoodoos," pillar-like formations eroded in the stones, in the steep corridor-like canyons of Bryce. The colors of the rocks were amazing—from reds and pinks to or-

anges and yellows. We were especially excited to see how amazing the colors were at Bryce after a cloud burst cleared. The rocks were freshly wet and the reds came through even deeper, which just made the green pines and blue sky stand out like a child's brightly crayon-colored picture. We had a memorable time hiking, talking and playing together .

Such time spend together with your family is no less important for your spiritual family! God has proclaimed that we are truly part of one holy family, the Church, through faith in Jesus Christ, who calls us "brothers" (and sisters!) (Heb 2:11). That is why this fall, I'm asking each of you to get into a small group study for six weeks to spend time with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Faith. I'll be doing a six-week



Pastor Wenz and family at Kolob Canyon at Zion

Sermon Series based on John's Orberg's book, "The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People." There will be small groups meeting at the church and at some member's homes each week. Signups will begin this month and participant books have arrived for purchase. This is about gathering as God's people so that our time spent together will bless us. Your family needs you to spend time with them to grow close. This is also true of our spiritual family! The time is

coming when my children will be grown and I will not be able to spend a week together with them again as they go off to college and begin careers and families. There is also a limited time for each of us to meet with our church family, since some will go to heaven, and some day Jesus will return. In the mean time, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching!" (Heb 10:25). If you would like to get into one of our small groups this fall, please talk to me or call the church office before Sept. 12.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Paul Wenz



**NEXT ELDER'S MEETING ON:
AUG. 9TH @ 6 PM**

Four Miles from Church

By Daryl Wingerd

How important is faithful church attendance for the Christian? One man who understood its importance was the father of 19th century missionary John Paton. Living four miles from their church in Dumfries, Scotland, Paton writes,

“... during all these forty years my father was only thrice prevented from attending the worship of God—once by snow so deep that he was baffled and had to return; once by ice on the road, so dangerous that he was forced to crawl back up the Roucan Brae on his hands and knees, after having descended it so far with many falls; and once by the terrible outbreak of cholera at Dumfries.”¹

What would inspire a man like Mr. Paton to attend church so faithfully? More importantly, in a day when so many cultural factors conspire to keep Christians out of church, what would inspire us to be more faithful?

Perhaps the most familiar Bible verse related to church attendance is Hebrews 10:23-25:

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good works, *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.”

Contrary to the way this text is often applied, we do not obey by simply placing our posterior in a pew on Sunday mornings for an hour or so, as though it were a legal requirement, and then by going about our week as if no further obligation existed. We obey by maintaining consistent and meaningful fellowship with our local church family—on Sundays in particular, but also on as many other occasions as possible. You see, Hebrews 10:25 is not about record-keeping or perfect attendance pins. It is about the fellowship that is essential to our survival as Christians.

Hebrews 10:23-25 is found near the conclusion of a lengthy exhortation for Christians to persevere in the faith. This is what “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” means in verse 23. The Hebrew Christians were being sorely tried by social pressure and persecution. They were being strongly tempted to give it all up—to walk away from Christ and be ordinary Jews once again. Verses 26-31 follow with a frightening warning about falling away.

Every Christian needs to realize that there is an alternative to persevering as a Christian. That alternative is falling away from the faith, sometimes called “apostasy.” God preserves true believers to the end, but He also sternly and repeatedly warns professing believers to guard themselves against falling away. This is because falling away from Christ



is fatal. God’s elect will be preserved, but those “believers” who eventually abandon their Christian profession, whether for a false religion, a worldly philosophy, or simply due to laziness, apathy, or selfish desires, were never truly among that number, despite former appearances to the contrary. As John said of some apostates in his first letter, “They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us” (1 John 2:19).

What is really at stake in Hebrews 10 is eternity—perseverance in the faith. After the exhortation to persevere given in verse 23, the writer assigns the *means* of perseverance in verses 24-25. This is *how* to survive! And here we learn the purpose and importance of gathering faithfully with the local church.

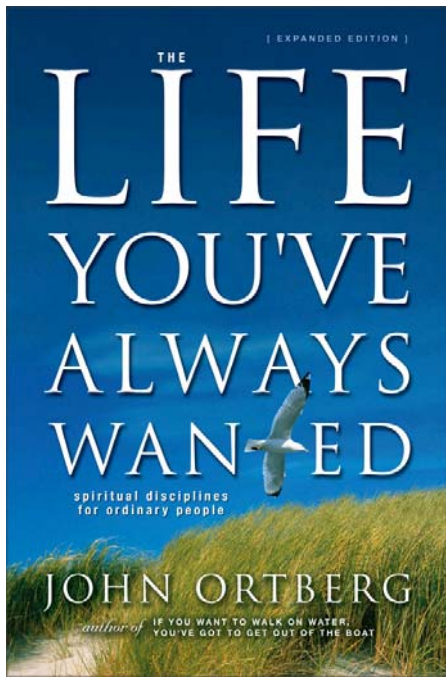
The author tells them to “stimulate one another” to love and good deeds. Why? So that they can feel warm inside and make an impact on society? Not primarily. Love for other believers and the consistent practice of righteousness are the attitudes and actions that *prove* and *strengthen* a true Christian’s faith (see 1 John 3:9-20). And the fact is, the right kind of stimulation doesn’t occur in isolation. It doesn’t come through worldly associations or pursuits. It only occurs in the context of regular fellowship with committed Christians.

Some may take what I said earlier about Hebrews 10:25 not being a “legal requirement” as license to be haphazard in church attendance. But if what I said causes anyone to assign *less* importance to the regular meetings of his local church rather than *more*, he has missed the point completely. This passage is about God’s *preservation* of His people, which is accomplished through their *perseverance in the faith*, which requires consistent *fellowship*. Where this is understood, only the most unavoidable hindrances will keep a Christian away.

The professing Christian who says, “Just give me Jesus. I can do without the local church,” does not understand. The New Testament knows nothing about any type of true fellowship with Jesus that is not lived out in fellowship with the other members of His Body, which *is* the church (Eph. 1:22-23). When Paul was persecuting the early church, he was persecuting Jesus (Acts 9:4). Likewise, those who despise the local church despise the visible representation of Christ.

“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.” Hebrews 3:14

¹ John Paton, *Missionary Patriarch* (San Antonio, The Vision Forum, Inc., 2002), 15. Copyright © 2007 Daryl Wingerd. Permission granted for reproduction.



A NEW 6 WEEK BIBLE STUDY & Sermon Series at Faith— Fall 2010

This passionate and provoking 6 week study comes with exercises to practice the transformational spiritual disciplines of Jesus, such as prayer, confession, servanthood, and reflection.

Starting the week of September 12, 2010! In conjunction with weekly sermons on the topics, there will be several small group studies, including new home study groups located in the homes of elders Andy Shaffer, Rick Ferrell, and Forrest Fulk.

Study Books are now available at the church office for those who signed up already. A few extra books are also available for purchase!

Faith Fellowship Brunch

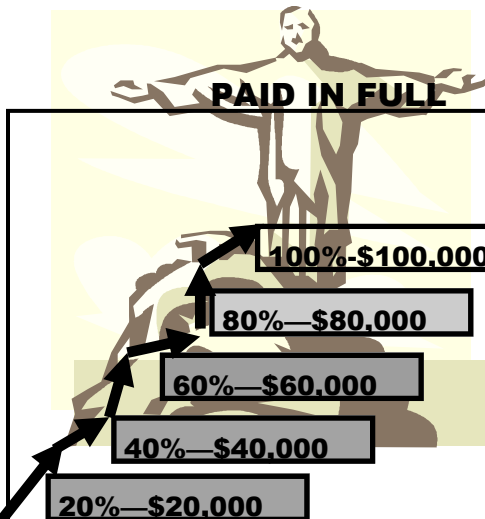
July 25, 2010



Lining up for brunch on a summer morning are (from left): Jesse Rowan, David Tito, Jennifer Tito, Rocco Tito, Faith visitor & Andy Shaffer.



Good food was shared by all. Sitting at table (r to l): Heather Olea, Roberto (Junior) Olea, Carlos Olea, and standing behind them is Dawn Falkenberg.



“Paid in Full” Campaign

Faith Lutheran’s campaign to pay off the church mortgage is now under two thirds complete! With under \$30,000 left, prayerfully consider making a sacrificial gift to the Lord this year by giving a special offering above and beyond your tithes and offerings to the “Paid in Full” Campaign. We are keeping up with our budget much better than last year, but every month we can pay off will bring us closer to making our church’s budget for the whole year. We have so much to be thankful for at Faith—help us reach our goal by the end of 2010!

AUGUST: TALKING WITH YOUR DOCTOR

How are you at communicating with your healthcare provider? Do you feel like he or she is speaking a foreign language? Are you comfortable asking questions, or saying “I don’t understand...can you tell me in plainer language...?”

Your relationship with your provider affects the care you get! How well you communicate – *that means listening as well as talking* – with each other is critical to your getting the best possible care, in reasonable time, and at a fair price. Here are some simple pointers to make your conversations with your provider more effective:

PLAN AHEAD... know ahead of time what you intend to discuss with your doctor, whether it’s a specific problem or your annual physical exam.

- Carry a written list of questions, and bring a list of symptoms if you’re not feeling well.
- Remember to bring a list of all the medications you use– jot down the doses and how often you use them – include vitamins, minerals and herbal supplements! (It’s helpful to the doctor to know what you’ve tried and how well medications, hot packs or ice packs, etc. have worked to relieve symptoms.)
- Have your insurance card and any medical records (or have them sent in advance) if you’re seeing the doctor for the first time. Take a copy of your advance directive (or ask the doctor’s office for the forms so you can prepare one!)

One expert notes “Many people were brought up on ‘old medical manners’ – that is, to be ‘good patients’. Being polite was more important in the doctor’s office than in church! But the days of ‘doctor knows best’ are waning, and the relationship is more about interaction.”

SPEAK UP!... don’t be put off by big words and don’t withhold information!

- It is important to tell your doctor accurate information, even the personal stuff – being embarrassed or uncomfortable is no excuse for outright lies, “stretching the truth” or omitting information – it may be very costly in arriving at the correct diagnosis and the best treatment. The more honest you are, the better your doctor can help you!
- Don’t waste the doctor’s time (or yours!) asking irrelevant questions: your uncle’s medical problem can’t be diagnosed unless he’s being examined and tested... stick to your reason for being there!
- If you don’t understand what the doctor is telling you,

ask him/her to explain it again, using different words, drawing a picture or doing whatever it takes! Don’t leave the doctor’s office without understanding every- thing you’ve been told, and don’t agree to treatments or tests that haven’t been explained to you.

- If you feel rushed or worried about decisions, share those feelings with the doctor: “I don’t feel comfortable making a decision until I understand this better... I need more time...”

LISTEN AND TAKE NOTES... on the doctor’s analysis of your problem, and what you need to do to rectify it!

- Bring notepad and pen with you, make notes about terms that you wish to research – knowing some related medical terms and common treatments will make it easier to follow instructions (e.g., taking medications correctly) and participate in planning your care.
- You may want to bring someone along to help you ask questions and take notes... this person can also help you understand explanations and remember details later.



FOLLOW THROUGH... your responsibility in the health care delivery partnership means (for example) taking the prescribed medicine when, and as long as the doctor ordered (don’t stop when you begin to feel better, and – for heaven’s sake! – don’t share it with other people who are complaining of similar symptoms)...if you’re not going to follow the doctor’s orders, be honest and explain why... Keep followup appointments, and keep lines of communication open... you should have confidence and trust in his or her medical ability and judgment. If not, you might need to entrust your care to someone else.

Most capable doctors will agree that they learn from their patients all the time, just as a good teacher learns from his students. A skillful doctor treats the patient as the captain of the ship, and himself as the navigator – remember, playing an active role in your own health care places the responsibility for reliable communication with your provider squarely on you!

For more information about communicating effectively with your healthcare providers, go to:

http://www.aarp.org/health/staying_healthy/prevention/a2003-03-13-talkdr.html

<http://medicalwisdom.com/articles/how-to-get-the-best-medical-care/15.htm>

<http://www.ahrq.gov> “Quick Tips When Talking with Your Doctor”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-lying8-2009jun08,0,6824072>

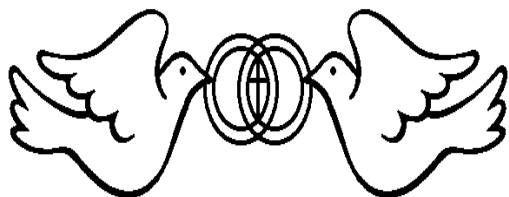
“Body of Lies: Patients aren’t 100% honest with doctors”



Kim Dalton	8-5
Geri Carlson	8-7
Debbie Cammorata	8-10
Susan Shaffer	8-10
Joe Pagan	8-11
Missy Creacy	8-12
Verna Vogt	8-13
Bruce Duerfeldt	8-15
Roberto Olea	8-16
Caroline Schroder	8-17



Kay Siebrass	8-22
Lonnie Mehlberg	8-26
April Kwiatkowski	8-26
Vivian Tito	8-29



<i>Jessie & Lenora Rowan</i>	<i>8-1</i>
<i>Tony & Cindy Medeiros</i>	<i>8-2</i>
<i>Rick & Alicia Ferrell</i>	<i>8-8</i>
<i>Rev. Lowell & Kay Siebrass</i>	<i>8-12</i>
<i>Vic & Cindy Noel</i>	<i>8-17</i>
<i>Larry & Amy Phipps</i>	<i>8-24</i>



If we missed any birthdays or anniversaries, please contact the church secretary. Thanks

Did You Know?

Did You Know? Almonds and pistachios are the only nuts that appear in text in regards to the Bible.

Did You Know? As stated in Isaiah 8:1, the longest name in the Bible is Mahershalalhashbaz.

Did You Know? Throughout the Bible, salt is referred to 30 times in the Bible.

Did You Know? Scholars believe that an estimated 50 different authors were responsible for establishing the 66 books associated with the King James version of the Bible.

Did You Know? Out of all the verses contained in the Bible, about 500 are focused on prayer; less than 500 verses concentrate on faith; and a whopping 2,000 + are devoted to money and possessions.

Did You Know? When looking for the shortest verse in the Bible, it is contained in John 11:35 with two words: "Jesus wept."

Did You Know? There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible, where the Old Testament contains 929 chapters, and the New Testament consists of 260 chapters.



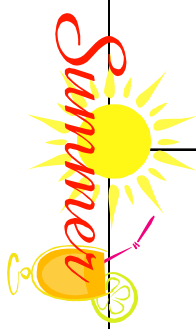
**Next B.O.D. Meeting on:
Wednesday August 18th
at 6:00 p.m.**

August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 am- Traditional Worship 9:15 am- Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am-Contemporary Worship	2 Bible Study 10 a.m. Praise Team Practice 7 PM	3	4	5 L.E. & Bible Study @ 10 am Bell Choir Practice 7 PM	6	7 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ 7:30am Altar Guild 9 am
8 8:00 am- Traditional Worship 9:15 am- Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am-Contemporary Worship	9 Bible Study 10 a.m. Elder's Meeting 6 pm Praise Team Practice 7 PM	10	11 Food Distribution 10:15 am	12 L.E. & Bible Study @ 10 am Bell Choir Practice 7 PM	13	14 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ 7:30am
15 8:00 am- Traditional Worship 9:15 am- Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am-Contemporary Worship	16 Bible Study 10 a.m. Praise Team Practice 7 PM	17	18 Board of Director's Meeting 6 PM	19 L.E. & Bible Study @ 10 am Bell Choir Practice 7 PM	20	21 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ 7:30am
22 8:00 am- Traditional Worship 9:15 am- Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am-Contemporary Worship	23 Bible Study 10 a.m. Praise Team Practice 7 PM	24	25 Food Distribution 10:15 am	26 L.E. & Bible Study @ 10 am Bell Choir Practice 7 PM	27	28 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study @ 7:30am
29 8:00 am- Traditional Worship FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH 10:30 am-Contemporary Worship	30 Bible Study 10 a.m. Praise Team Practice 7 PM	31				

SECRETARY'S VACATION WEEK → → → → →



COME BE A PART OF GOD'S GREAT GIFT!

As an act of Grace — undeserved love for us — God sent Jesus
“to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become righteousness of God.”

— 1 Corinthians 5:21b



Jesus took our sin & death
and in exchange — week by week — we receive
forgiveness, eternal life and the status of holy children of God.



Please join all the members of Faith on Sundays:

8:00 am **Traditional Worship Service**

9:15 am **Sunday School and Adult Bible Class**

Opportunities for all ages (preschool to adult)
to be planted, nurtured, and grown in faith through God's Word.

10:30 am **Contemporary Praise Service**

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GOD BLESS THOSE WHO DELIVER THIS!