



Each year, as I work my way through the sermon series, it feels like God uncovers something for me that comes alive. I can't anticipate what it will be. It's something that just happens. This year in Jesus' parables I have been struck by the theme of table fellowship. In terms of the stories Jesus tells to describe the kingdom of God, the most common image is that it's a dinner party! Over and over again in Luke's gospel Jesus is either at a banquet, or talking about one in which God is the host. And I love this description because, in my experience, hanging out with people over a meal is a place of intimacy and enjoyment. Shared food is part of sharing life. This is one of the primary things I believe our Lenten season is to be about.

Over the past couple of years, our body has embraced Lent as a time of fasting and prayer. For this I am truly grateful and believe that so much of the good we are currently experiencing is the fruit! Our hope for this year is that it will be filled with prayer as well. But instead of fasting from food, our sense is that the call from God is to fast from our busyness in order to feast on rest and fellowship.

Being away on sabbatical this past summer and then coming back to the States highlighted for me the incredible busyness of our culture. I mentioned at the time of our return how I felt like I was back to "spinning plates" to keep them up in the air. There are so many things that call for our attention with the lie that "it won't take very long". (Perhaps this is the lie of technology... that we can become efficient in everything... or that everything should be efficient). In *The Screwtape Letters*, CS Lewis describes how the devil is thrilled with any trade of a lesser sin for something more destructive and insidious (such as gluttony for pride). I think it's safe to say that we live in the most prosperous, and technologically advanced society the world has yet seen, and still we are as tired, confused, isolated, and unhappy as any past generation. And while I am definitely

thankful for the benefits of technological advances (especially medical!), as a culture we have exchanged God's "shalom" for material prosperity.

So this Lent we want to focus our body on Sabbath. God's design for us is to weekly find rest and restoration by ceasing from work and attending to him. Given what I've said above, it's exchanging our focus on material well-being back to the "shalom" that only God

can provide. In order to help us with this process, we are encouraging two things for this year's Lenten season: (1) that you purchase and read *"The Rest of God"* by Mark Buchanon (it is available at



worship for \$15), and (2) joining in on Sunday evening "dinner banquets" or "Sabbath meals" (Feb. 25th, March 4th & 25th). We are in the process of organizing hosts, so if you would like to help, please give a call to the office. Our desire is to keep these meals smaller settings for adults and children, and so will have sign-up sheets at Sunday worship.

Let me say one more thing. Every time we do something new, the danger is that it will be "added" to all of the things we are already doing. No matter how good it is, if we don't stop doing something else, the benefit of the new experience will be, to some extent, negated by the busyness it creates. The brilliance of God's instructions around Sabbath is that we must stop doing the things we normally do in order to embrace a different kind of time and experience. We give up expending energy in order to be restored. So this Lent, we are not asking you to fast from food, but to fast from TV, unnecessary meetings or errands, and other activities that don't replenish. (So much of what is on TV is like cotton candy – very little nutritional value!). Instead, take time to read, listen to worship music, or spend time with a friend. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 21st, with our service from 7:00 to 8:00 PM at the Green Lake Church.

The Pastor's Letter



Have You Noticed “The Notice”?

Starting in January, the elders placed the following words in our weekly Sunday morning worship bulletin: “Our worship service is an opportunity for members of our church family to practice the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a loving, safe, and mutually beneficial way. When you feel the Spirit's leading to share a scripture, prayer, or testimony, we invite you to express it at any appropriate time. Should you have a prophetic word or song, please check in first with a pastor to get their sense of whether it is for the whole congregation and appropriate for the service. If your message comes in the first person, we ask that you preface it with something like, “This is my sense of what the Lord is saying...” When someone is directed to share in tongues for all gathered, we expect God will also provide an interpretation and will pause the service to wait for it, so that all may benefit. We may also take time during the service to consider together what was shared. Thank you for your patience as we learn to better steward these gifts. Calvary Chapel Elders”

Why did we do this? For a few years now, our congregation has been growing in its understanding of and desire for manifestations of the Holy Spirit in worship. But we are also aware that for this to happen in an edifying way, it requires clarity about how these things will be handled. We've also noted that when we focus on these things in our teaching, people are encouraged, and perhaps even emboldened, to step out in ways that they might not otherwise. But it's not our desire to make this the focus of every sermon or even to explain things verbally every week as either a reminder or instruction for newcomers. So we decided to write up a summary that we hope will inform and guide us as we gather for worship.

Writing this statement was not easy! It certainly does not say everything that could be said about worship and the Holy Spirit's leading. To keep it a manageable size, we had to cut it down to the things that we felt were essential to say. Again, our goal is to bring clarity (even to a visitor) as well as encouragement (we expect and want these things to happen). If you have any feedback, questions, or suggestions for improvement, we welcome it. Simply talk to one of the pastors or elders or send us an email at elders@ccseattle.org.

Thanks, Bill

Meet the Missionaries — Jon & Patti Stewart

We recently returned from China where we spent the last 3 years studying Mandarin. Although this was our primary focus, we also had incredible opportunities to reach out locally to the region in which we live. We spent time in villages where the poverty is so great, something as simple as a toy car or a stuffed animal brings joy and smiles to a child who has never owned anything so wonderful... where a child will walk 5 miles in freezing cold temperatures because they heard some foreigners were coming to the village to hand out dolls. Then to watch that child walk back home empty handed because by the time she arrived all the dolls were gone.... If you remind me later I'll finish this story for you. We had the opportunity to meet with local believers and watch them grow in their faith, then turn around and reach out to their friends and family and actually begin Bible studies in their homes. We had the greatest time. We couldn't have asked for a more blessed first term on the field. It wasn't without struggle and even life threatening circumstances--remind me and I'll finish that one later as well--but it was a time of stretching and growing in Christ and a time to search out what we had actually been called to do.

We hope to return in August of this year. In the meantime we are traveling around Washington and Oregon trying to raise our new budget. So what will we be doing when we go back? We will be involved in three different aspects of ministry. First is bringing structure to the Bible school that we are involved with. We hope to offer classes online on a secure connection. This project needs focus and funds to get it up and running. Secondly, we will be doing more humanitarian projects in our province. These projects allow us spread the love and compassion of Jesus without words and usually lead to more than meeting physical needs. Our goal is to reach out to specific villages and build long term relationships. We hope to see a church evolve in every village that we partner with. Lastly we will be providing support and training for our team members. It is a privilege to be working with people who, when they finish language study, will be going all over China to share Christ and disciple local believers.

Please join us Sunday, February 11th for lunch after worship at the home of the Glads to hear more from Jon & Patti.

New Feature: Missionary Prayer Notes!

Directions: Cut on the dotted lines below and affix to your bathroom mirror, your refrigerator, or wherever it is mostly likely to be seen and to remind you to pray for our missionaries.

We caught up with the Stewarts during last month's storm, and asked them a few questions. **Quad C:** What are the best things about being back in the States? **Stewarts:** Fresh air. Family. **Quad C:** What do you miss most about Central Asia? **Stewarts:** Friends. Our team. Speaking Chinese. **Quad C:** How can we pray for Central Asia right now? **Stewarts:** Freedom for the church. Help for those who don't believe to have an opportunity to hear the Good News. **Quad C:** What about for you as a family? **Stewarts:** A deeper walk with Christ. It's easy to focus so much on the act of ministry that we forget to focus on the spirit of ministry. To be able to return to the field in August. (It will take a miracle financially for us to return this summer.) And that we won't lose too much of our Chinese! Protection while traveling. And for good health and healing for Jon's heart. Prayer for the kids in school is always welcome as well.

Safety First, Part II Keeping our children and our church safe from child abuse

Last month, I began a series of Quad C articles on the ways we keep children safe at Calvary Chapel. Let me quote from last month's article to refresh your memory a bit:

"The main reason we want to be prepared . . . is to protect all the children whom God has entrusted to our care. Our policies are only a printed expression of the value we place on children. With this in mind, we want to educate our whole congregation about the policies we have in place and how we are attempting to improve. While this may seem unnecessary to some, it is actually one piece of an overall strategy to make Calvary Chapel a safe place. When our congregation is aware of safety policies, and the policies are "advertised," a predator may conclude that our church isn't a place of opportunity for abusive behavior."

At Calvary Chapel, we have several policies that we endeavor to follow in order to create a safe environment for our children. One set of policies covers the screening of anyone who might work or volunteer with children and youth. Here are some pieces of that policy:

- We ask that volunteers attend Calvary Chapel for a period of six months before volunteering with any ministry.
- Volunteers and staff fill out a Washington State Patrol Background check.
- Volunteers and staff fill out an application describing their previous church experience and their experience in working with children. These are reviewed by a pastor, and a face to face meeting is set up between the volunteer and pastor.

The main goal of this screening process is to help place volunteers in a situation that would best suit their talents and desires; however, it is also a time for individual screening and accountability in order to make sure that people who work with children and youth in our church do not have a criminal history or history of perpetrating abuse that would endanger any of our congregation. If something of this nature is uncovered by this process, it gives our pastoral staff an opportunity to come along side the individual for prayer, counseling, and discipleship.

Isn't this a lot of questions to ask of someone who might volunteer with children when we're always looking for new volunteers? Won't all the questioning scare someone away? I guess that's possible. It would be nice if we lived in a culture that allowed us to trust everyone immediately, but we don't. Most people are willing to undergo a little personal discomfort in order to create a safe environment for our children and youth at Calvary Chapel. When the environment is safe, we can focus on bringing kids into a greater relationship in Jesus Christ. Thank you for engaging in this discussion of our safety policies at Calvary Chapel. If you have specific questions, or would like to see the policies in written form, please email or call me.

In Him,
Connie

Day Away: A Time of Rest and Restoration



There is a whisper in the air . . . the whisper of Christ: "*Come unto me all who are tired and I will give you rest.*" If you are tired, we want to invite you to get away for a day of rest and restoration. On February 10th, Calvary Chapel will be hosting a "Day Away" at the Schutte's house in Duvall. It's a time that seeks to provide space to hear from God, to rest in God, and to reflect on life.

The day will begin at 9 AM with a homemade breakfast. After a time of enjoying food and conversation, we will enter into soaking prayer. Unlike other forms of worship, this is a time when we allow song to sing *into us*, rather than out of us (like we experienced at the All Church Retreat and CC's "Breathe" Worship Night.) After a time of resting in God's presence we will have the opportunity for a guided time of reflection intended to help us hear God's word and experience His love for us.

Since we are preparing both a breakfast and a light lunch, we ask that you would RSVP. You can do so by e-mailing the church office at coffice@ccseattle.org or calling 206.633.4134. Please know, you can attend as little or as much of the day as you desire (from 9 AM to 3 PM).



Calvary Chapel meets at the Green Lake Church, 6350 E. Green Lake Way N.
 Phone: 206.633.4134
<http://www.ccseattle.org>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
The names on each day represent the current schedule for Prayer & Fasting. If you would like to join the rotation please contact the office.					1	2	3
				Bill & Becky G.	Steve & Annabelle R.	Lorelle J.	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Communion 10:00 AM Renee L.	Wendy A.	Bill & Kris H.	Prayer Meeting at the Lijja's—8:30 PM TG 7:00 PM @ the church Troy S.	Michelle H.	Harry & Kathleen L.	Day Away @the Schutte's Connie S.	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Prayer & Anointing 10:00 AM New Comer Lunch at Beso del Sol—12:00 PM MTM — Lunch at the Glad's David & Amy L.	Becky Z.	Garett B. & Michelle Q.	TG 7:00 PM @ the church Jim & Chikako M.	Elder Meeting 7:00 PM Jerry & Daelene K.	Doug W.	Troy S.	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Kids in Worship 10:00 AM Body Check-up — 6:00 PM Ian H.	 PRESIDENTS DAY Scott & Kristen O.	Rena C.	 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Erik L.	Lauren H.	Senior High Camp Andrea Z. & Angie D.	Kay S.	
25	26	27	28				
Intercession – 8:00 AM Worship—Prayer & Anointing 10:00 AM Sabbath Dinner Love & Logic—6:00 PM Jeff & Jeanie D.	Greg & Lisa D.	Mark & Jessica B.	TG 7:00 PM @ the church John & Linda C.				



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