

California Road Missionary Church

October 2017 Newsletter

Pastor's Pen, October 2017

Recent time in God's Word led me to I Kings chapter 15. The beginning of the chapter talks about Abijah, the king in Jerusalem. We have this summary: He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been; he was only king for 3 years.

Then we read about his son, Asa. He was a great-great grandson of King David. In the accounts of the different kings throughout the Old Testament, we are told about things they accomplished in the book of 2 Chronicles. Here we're told a bit more about King Asa, the battles that he led the army into, and the victories that were won. He didn't do everything perfectly, but he made changes regarding idol worship. He expelled the male shrine prostitutes from the land and got rid of all the idols his ancestors had made. There was one act that illustrates, especially well, Asa's incredible bravery. We read this: "He even deposed his grandmother Maakah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah. Asa cut it down and burned it in the Kidron Valley." (2 Chronicles 15:16)

He stood up to his grandma because she was doing things that God had forbidden to the Jewish people. They were supposed to worship Him, yet here she was leading the way in the worship of the goddess, Asherah. He did not just have a quiet talk with grandma; he kicked her out. Asa removed her from the place of power she had as queen mother. What she was doing was evil and did not belong among the Jewish people, so he made a necessary and strong statement. Do you think other people may have been concerned about going out to worship Asherah?

As I read this, I was reminded that there are times when we need to take a stand against what is sinful and wrong. It is so easy to worry about hurting someone's feelings, that we don't do anything. We just smile and say, "I don't want to stir anything up, so I will just be quiet."

Jesus had this difficult thing to say to His disciples: "Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Our culture teaches that we should keep peace in our families at all cost. I have seen some very disturbing examples of this over the years, including people protecting abusers, because they did not want to stir up trouble. It was amazing to see families that were held in bondage because they refused to care for ugly things.

We look around us and we hear the message that our culture needs to change, that we need to accept whatever anyone else is doing. Acceptance of whatever has now become the definition of love. Some believe that, "If you don't accept my bad choices and poor behavior, then you don't love, and I am going to throw a fit until you do what I want."

There are times we need to step up and say, "What you are doing is wrong; the choices you are making in life are sinful." That may result in people getting angry and walking away from you, but Jesus said that would happen. Seeking obedience to the Lord is more important than keeping people happy. Jesus has called us to be salt and light to make a difference in our world. That is not always an easy thing, but it is necessary. May we seek wisdom from the Holy Spirit to faithfully walk with Him through whatever situations we face and have discernment to know how to manage every encounter, trusting Him for the outcome.

In His service, Pastor Bud

Let's Learn...

Let's Learn...about Spiritual Gifts. The Holy Spirit gifts every child of God with unique abilities that are intended to glorify God by ministering to the Church and the world. Spiritual gifts are not our own skills but a result of God's grace working in us to pair our greatest passions with the world's deepest needs.

Discerning Your Gifts: It can be difficult to identify our spiritual gifts. If you need help determining how God has gifted you, here are some ways to start:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your life and use you as He wills. Ask Him to show you how He has gifted you and how He wants to use you to minister in His Church and world.
- Ask people who know you well what God-given strengths they see in you.
- We have "Spiritual Gift Inventories/Assessments" available to learn about different spiritual gifts and which ones you might have. If you'd like specific resources, Cris has some helpful places to start.

Using Your Gifts: Occasionally, questions are asked about the use, or lack of use, of our spiritual gifts. Here are some of the more frequently asked questions.

1. If all believers have at least one gift, why don't they evidence it?
2. Does the exercise of certain gifts make a person more spiritual?
3. If a person doesn't have a certain gift, is he/she exempt from ministry that uses that gift?

These are thought-provoking questions that we can process together in coming newsletters!

Young Adult Fellowship

Young adults are invited to enjoy lunch and fellowship together **each Sunday afternoon** following the worship service. This month's schedule is as follows:

- **October 1:** All young adults are invited to Tim and Sue Matteson's house.
- **October 8:** Tim and Sue are hosting the younger group (college students and graduates), and Aaron and Kelli Grosse are hosting the older group (college graduates and young couples and families).
- **October 15, 22, & 29:** Tim and Sue are hosting the younger YA's, and Pastor Bud and Cris are hosting the older YA's.

Please note that young adults are welcome to join either dinner when there are two options!



Partners in Prayer

Please pray for those affected by recent natural disasters throughout our country and world. So many people have lost so much as a result of hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, and other hardships. Here are some specific requests:

- Comfort and provision for those affected.
- Integrity and sufficient resources for those helping so that all needs will be properly met.
- That we, as individuals and a church family, would be willing to meet any needs that we can.

If God is prompting you to serve in this way, consider donating to a reputable organization that is equipped to meet these needs. Some ideas include the Missionary Church, World Relief, Samaritan's Purse, and the American Red Cross.

Pastor Bud & Cris

Pastor Bud and Cris will be taking vacation time while their son Dale and two of their grandchildren visit from September 30 to October 13. While Pastor Bud plans to preach on October 1st (while their Kiwis sleep) and

they may be around to share their world with their grands, family time will dictate their schedule. If you need to reach someone during that period, you can contact Burl Hatfield (our head deacon) for ministry needs, Aaron Grosse if you need access to the church building or have ministry needs, or Hannah Matteson for office inquiries. Their cell numbers are listed here:

Burl: 574-596-4139
Aaron: 312-971-5949
Hannah: 765-437-6600

Euchre Night

Join us at Dennis and Penny Schmucker's house on **Friday, October 6** at 6:30 pm for an evening of Euchre fun. *Please note that the new start time is 6:30 pm to allow people time to get snacks before the games begin at 7.* Please bring a snack to share and let Schmuckers know if you plan attend. New players are always welcome!



Thank You

"Dear California Road Missionary Church Family, Thank you for the beautiful plant. I have no words to express my gratitude for my church family. Thank you for your presence, your loving cards, your hugs, your kind words. Thank you for comforting us in time of sorrow and sadness. I thank God every day to have you in my life.
With loving thoughts, Paul & Ilaine Bender"

Youth Events

Check out the activities that the youth are hosting this month:

- **World Missionary Press Night:** Everyone is welcome to join the youth as they volunteer at World Missionary Press on **Friday, October 13**. The group will meet at church at 6:15 pm and return by 9 pm. Please let Aaron know if you plan to attend.



- **Lock-In:** There will be a youth lock-in beginning at 6 pm on **Friday, October 20** and ending at noon on **Saturday, October 21**.

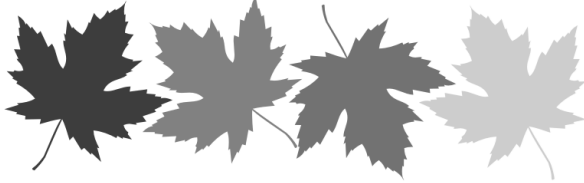
- **Finding God in Movies:** You are invited to join the youth for their monthly Finding God in Movies event. Join them in the Youth Room on **Sunday, October 29** at 5:30 pm. Enjoy popcorn, movie, and great conversation!

Feel free to ask Aaron Grosse if you have any questions or would like more information. Additionally, there are a lot of resources at the youth table in the office foyer.



Fall Party

Dennis & Penny Schmucker have graciously invited our church family to their home for a "Fall Party" on Friday, October 20. Feel free to arrive as early as 4 pm and stay as late that evening as you like. Chili is the featured menu item, so please bring a complimentary side dish. In case of rain, the party will be the following day/evening with the same plan!



Children's Ministry Update

From Cris Walterhouse: "I want to connect you with a plan for transitioning leadership in Children's Ministry. I've served in this role since January 2016, and I truly love serving our children. This is a serious time commitment, though, and I'm entirely confident that more could be done if someone else was in charge. In the time I've served in this capacity, I've had the opportunity to observe a great deal and glean a wide range of ideas and perspectives. It has been good, but I feel the need to share this responsibility. I've watched Caleb and Rachel Miller interact with the children and serve them well. Between them, they provide a balance of energy and tender, loving care. Caleb has been a partner with me in Sunday School and Jr. Church, and I truly appreciate how he has managed delicate situations with insight and care. Rachel is a good planner and provides solid discernment. They're happy and willing to serve as our new Children's Directors, and I'm grateful for the privilege of continuing to serve with them in charge! We've used the month of September as a time of transition with them becoming the "go to" Children's Directors while Pastor Bud & I vacation with our family this month. Beloved church family, the Lord has blessed us with precious children to show and share the love of Jesus Christ. Let's do it well and with every opportunity, whether with many or a few. I'm certain that we've only begun to see how the Lord will work in and through each one as they learn to reflect His heart to others.



- Miss Cris"

Directory Updates

We're so glad to have new directory inserts to share with you in the coming weeks, so please watch your mailboxes for pages to take home and insert into your CRMC directories. Additional pages will be available at the Welcome Center. A couple reminders:

- 1) **If you do not yet have your own directory binder**, please contact Hannah or Cris to receive yours.
- 2) **If you still need a directory page or your current one is out of date**, please fill out a red information (half) sheet and return it to Hannah so that we can create your page. This is an extremely valuable tool for matching faces to names and keeping up-to-date contact information.
- 3) **The directory is also available on our church website** (californiaroad.org) under the "CRMC Member Resources" tab. See Katya, Cris, or Hannah if you need the password to access this resource.

JOY Group

JOY Group will meet on **Wednesday, October 18** at noon for food and a time of fellowship. Please bring a dish to share, and come enjoy the time together!

Creative Arts Night

Now is the time to make preparation for our upcoming CAN! CAN will take place **Sunday, November 5**. Foyer presentations will be available from 6:15-6:30 pm, and stage presentations will begin at 6:30. Bring snack/finger food to share during a time of fellowship following CAN!

If you'd like to participate... We need your form (available at the Welcome Center) turned in to the church office by November 1 so we can make arrangements for Sunday evening's presentation. This is a perfect opportunity to continue development of your God-given talent.

An idea... Cris Walterhouse would like to pitch an idea, curious to see what might be created from the deep pool of talent in our church family. The idea: Create something (i.e., poem/story, dramatization, sketch, painting, song, etc.) to illustrate this quote by C. H. Spurgeon, "I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages."

"Least of These" in Kenya . . . by supporting Robyn Moore, CRMC helps in this work that touches lives and touches the heart of God!

than 1,000 Kenyan orphans and vulnerable children living in the greater Nairobi area.

Least of These works with children's homes, special needs schools, HIV/AIDS clinics, children's centers, and abandoned baby centers in nine different areas of the city. Workers run mobile clinics that aim to prevent and treat current health issues. They also work closely with HIV/AIDS children, taking care of their physical needs and educating them about how to stay healthy and have nutritional diets.

A vital part of this outreach includes taking peanut butter sandwiches to the ministry locations. The goal of these sandwiches is for the children to receive some of the protein and fat lacking from their diets and to give them a special treat to let them know they are loved. Peanut butter is given to children with HIV daily, as the protein and fat are necessary parts of keeping them healthy. The sandwiches also teach the children an important health lesson that the workers hope will become a habit at home—washing their hands before eating.

Education is another important part of a Kenyan child's mental and emotional well-being. Least of These strives to give orphans and vulnerable children the education they need to empower them to change their lives and not be destined to live in the slums. Least of These also works to educate the children on spiritual truths through Bible stories, coloring pages, and spending quality time together sharing each other's lives and testimonies.

The staff of Least of These includes WGM missionaries, both in Kenya and the U.S., Christian Service International missionaries in Kenya who have partnered with WGM, and numerous volunteers from around the world. Those who pray for and give to the ministry are also vital partners.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ... Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

Angel Tree Ministry

We're so grateful that Kathe Stowe has agreed to coordinate this year's Angel Tree Ministry. Watch for details in coming bulletins for your opportunity to extend Christmas-time care to children of incarcerated parents in our community.

Christmas Cantata

This year's Christmas cantata, *The Christmas Story*, is coming up quickly!

- Practices will take place on **Sunday evenings** from 4:30-5:45 pm, beginning on **October 15**. If you enjoy singing, we encourage you to join the choir. Participating in the cantata is a wonderful way to participate in worship and fellowship.
- The final rehearsal is scheduled for **Saturday, December 16** from 9 am - noon.
- The cantata will be presented on **Sunday, December 17** during the worship service. Our choir has also been asked to sing that evening at Hubbard Hill.

If you have any questions, see Mike or Janis Kendall.

Intercultural Update

Nairobi, Kenya, is home to roughly 4 million people, and close to half live in the slums or in slum-like conditions. In partnership with Africa Gospel Church, Least of These ministry provides healthcare and education to more



And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

- Matthew 25:31-40