



Faith Christian Assembly

January Newsletter

January 1, 2024

Inside this issue:

Earlene's Corner...A New Year Resolution	2
What Kind of New Year... continued...	2
January Calendar	3
FCA Schedule Change... article	3
Letter from Pastor Sheri	4
Grace International History	4

What Kind of New Year do You Hope For? *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

As we count down the last moments of 2023, what is it that you are hoping for in 2024? Better health? More money? More stuff from Amazon?

I have a better question - What is it that you are praying for in regard to your soul in 2024? Life brings its share of concerns with each day that passes. But how often do we reflect on the condition of our soul? And what steps are we taking in our daily lives to encourage our souls to flourish to the glory of God?

John Wesley showed his concern for the soul by encouraging Christians to

ask each other, "How is it with your soul?" In our current culture, it can be easy to neglect our soul.

Psalm 107:9, NKJV

For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

The word longing originally applies to an animal running up and down in search of food or water. God alone can satisfy the cravings of man's spiritual nature. Our soul was made in His image. This means our soul has a yearning that nothing in this world can satisfy. The soul is fallen and therefore has need of restoration which nothing finite can accomplish.

In Thomas Moore's, "Care of the Soul," he begins with these words, which still ring true:

"The great malady of the twentieth century, implicated in all of our troubles and affecting us individually and socially, is 'loss of soul.' When soul is neglected, it doesn't just go away; it appears symptomatically in obsessions, addictions, violence, and loss of meaning. Our temptation is to isolate these symptoms or to try to eradicate them one by one; but the root problem is that we have lost our wisdom about the soul, even our interest in it."

~ Continued page 2



Earlene Leming

A New Year Resolution *by Earlene Leming*

Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

Helen was a Nun whose one assignment changed the lives of her students!

Amid an angry class discussion, she told each child to list the names of every student on a paper, and write ONE thing they liked about EACH name. Later, she gave each student a paper with

their OWN name on it. She had listed ALL the nice things others said of them. They exclaimed, "I never knew anyone felt that way."

Years later, Helen attended the Funeral of Mark, a student who had been killed in Viet Nam. His Dad said to the teacher, "I'd like to show you something I found in my son's wallet." He carefully removed a yellow, ragged paper listing

all the good things the classmates had said about his son. What made a boy carry a ten-year-old-paper halfway around the world, even to death in a rice-field? The answer simply is... Appreciation." May we choose this New Year to show God's love to others through our OWN WORDS of kindness.

~ Earlene

What Kind of New Year? *continued from page 1*

So, how is it with your soul? What are you doing to care for your soul?

I pray that we realize as we journey into 2024 that our soul wants and needs what we cannot provide. Our soul's satisfaction can only come from our Heavenly Father, otherwise it lives unsettled and discontented. Our soul's happiness is inseparably connected with obedience to the Divine will of God. Anything less only increases our soul's thirst.

Too many are tempted in their soul longing - to turn to this world. But this

world cannot give rest.

The only way the soul can be satisfied is in being at peace with God. To do the will of Jesus: this is rest.

Matthew 11:28-29, NKJV

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Read how God longs for this soul rest for us...

Isaiah 48:18

Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Happy New Year to you...I pray that this year we will make Psalm 103:1 a daily reality in the way that we praise, and the way that we live.

Psalm 103:1, NKJV

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

~Pastor Sheri

January Calendar

SUNDAYS

Service Time: 10:30am

January 7 – Communion service 10:30am

MONDAYS

Office Closed

TUESDAYS

Church Office/

Library Hours

10:00am to 4:00pm

Call for appointment



WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study—11:00am

January 3—No Bible Study

THURSDAYS

Next Men's and Women's Ministry meetings
Thursday February 15

FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours

10:00am to 4:00pm.

Call for appointment

FCA Schedule Change for 2024 by Pastor Sheri Leming

Isaiah 43:19,

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

We want to make you aware of a decision that Gary and I have made and the Leadership of

Faith Christian Assembly are in full support of. Through prayer, counsel and seeing the way our current schedule impacts the people of FCA, we have made the decision to suspend Sunday Night services. Our church has gradually been shifting to services and events

taking place in the daytime. The only scheduled evening event has been our Sunday Evening service. We are ever attentive to the safety of our people, and we are seeing that many are concerned about night driving. This decision has not been made

lightly. This will also enable us to have the time and the freedom to pursue those things that God places on our hearts for the benefit of Faith Christian Assembly. We anticipate all that God has in store for us in 2024.

~Pastor Sheri



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Faith Christian Assembly is a member of the Grace International Churches and Ministries, Inc., which was originally organized as the California Evangelistic Association in 1934. Beginning with one church, Colonial Tabernacle, located in Long Beach, CA the organization has since grown to include more than 4400 churches in the United States as well as in many nations of the world. It is now headquartered in Houston, TX, and overseen by an Executive Team and a Board of Directors, including as President Pastor Steve Riggle. Pastor Sheri Leming serves on the Grace International Missions Board and on the Grace SoCal District Committee.

From the Desk of Pastor Sheri Leming ~January 1, 2024

Happy 2024 to you! Like me, you probably paused at this date! How time flies. But we continue to rejoice, so grateful for what the Lord has done in and through Faith Christian Assembly in 2023, which gives us confidence to march boldly in faith into 2024! And we look forward to being on that journey with all of you! We serve a Mighty God, who has proven Himself faithful each year.

It was so delightful to have Pastor Paul Vaughn return from Tahiti. He shared with us stories of God's faithfulness throughout the year to La Bonne Nouvelle. We take joy in all that God is doing through Paul's ministry in Tahiti. We also had a blessed time at our Birthday Party for Jesus Lunch, and through your financial gifts we were able to help raise some extra support for our Grace International Missionaries as well

as additional financial support for our GI Ministries in Israel. Also because of your generosity we were able to give to Samaritan's Purse and local organizations We Care and the Orange County, Long Beach and Los Angeles Rescue Missions. Thank you for giving to the Lord!

We will be mailing out letters of receipt for your giving for this past year on January 19, 2024. Those of you who have tithe regularly throughout the year will receive a financial statement as well. We thank each of you for your obedience to God's Word and your generosity to Faith Christian Assembly throughout the year.

We invite you to join us this first Sunday of 2024 for our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is such a rich time to partake together and

in this way we can be obedient to Scripture as we obey Jesus' instruction to, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

We encourage you to renew your commitment to God's Word in 2024 by joining us for Bible Study every Wednesday @ 11am. God's Word shows us His plan for the way we should walk around this world as He draws others to Himself. Psalm 119:24, "Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors."

Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Looking forward to Sunday,
Pastor Sheri and Gary
Leming