



# Faith Christian Assembly

## April Newsletter



April 1, 2025

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### Bearing Fruit in Retirement *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

Because I'm a word nerd, I love to study word origins (etymology.) Word origins often reveal how word meanings have changed over the years. So I was reflecting on the origins of the word, "retire." Why you ask? Again, I'm a word nerd.

The word "retirement" originates from the French word "retirer," meaning "to withdraw," and its use in English dates back to the 16th century, originally in a military context, referring to pulling back or withdrawing troops, also to the "act of withdrawing into seclusion."

I don't know how that

last phrase hit you, but when I read, "act of withdrawing into seclusion" it sent shivers up my spine with Covid flashbacks. I also came across an article in Fortune magazine titled, "Why the Concept of Retirement is Destructive and Needs to be Replaced." The main reasons behind this perspective are that human beings are meant to be productive, and that leisure and relaxation cannot provide meaning and fulfillment for the long haul.

I believe God's Word has much to say about this stage of life that many people call,

"retirement." First of all, no one was ever given the gold watch in the Bible. In fact, God's Word contains countless references to the aging process that should encourage us.

Psalms 92:12-14, NKJV

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord

Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bear fruit in old age;

They shall be fresh and flourishing.

~ Continued page 2



Earlene Leming

## A Clean Sheet of Paper *by Earlene Leming*

God taught me a simple TRUTH in my first teaching job. A second grader stood at my desk with a look of apprehension on his face. He held up a sheet of paper, and asked the same question for a third time that day. "Mrs. Leming, can I please have a clean sheet of paper?"

I noticed this paper was torn from erasing so much. I gave him a fresh one and watched as he happily walked to his seat. Later God spoke to me, "Do you realize I will GIVE

YOU a clean piece of paper any time? All you need to do is ASK ME."

I John 1:9 "For If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

This TRUTH became reality to me. I call it our "bar of soap." God forgives us by the Blood of Jesus. He broke the power of satan at the Cross. When we choose to forgive others, we stop the enemy's plan

to steal, kill and destroy us. We are freed from bitterness, anger, and emotional wounds. Matthew 6:14... "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you."

This is a good month to ask your "Heavenly Teacher" for a clean sheet of paper. You can receive your healing today! "For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds." Jeremiah 30:17

~ Earlene

## Bearing Fruit in Retirement *continued from page 1*

Please take note of these verses! They contain wonderful words like "flourish" and "fresh!" And don't forget this promise, "They shall still bear fruit in old age!"

I believe Scripture is saying that even if we don't have the energy

for the demanding schedule that chases productivity, we can still decide that we will live a fruitful life unto God. And I can think of no better occasion to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord than to commit to living a life of fruitfulness.

Take a look at Romans 7:4, which shows us that Christ was raised from the dead that we should bear fruit to God. This union with Christ will not be unproductive; it will have for its fruit a life consecrated to God...

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## April Calendar

### SUNDAYS

Service Time: 10:30am

April 6 — Communion Service

April 13—Palm Sunday

April 20—  
Resurrection Sunday

April 27—Guest  
Speaker Pastor Sam  
Rios

### MONDAYS

Office Closed



### TUESDAYS

Church Office and  
Library Hours  
10:00am to 4:00pm  
Call for appointment

### WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study @ 11:00am  
April 16 -No Bible Study  
April 30 -Guest speaker  
Pastor Curt Cornelius

### THURSDAYS

April 17 —1:00pm Men's  
Ministry and Touch of  
Love Women's Ministry  
meetings

### FRIDAYS

April 18—Good Friday  
service 12:00 pm—1:00  
pm  
Church Office Hours  
10:00am to 4:00pm.  
Please call for appoint-  
ment

## Bearing Fruit in Retirement *continued from page 2*

Romans 7:4, NKJV

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

The Resurrection of Jesus has made it possible for us to

live a fruitful life. Without the Resurrection, God's people would not have the capacity to bear fruit for God. It is our relationship with Jesus that will make all the difference in our fruit-bearing.

Can you think of a better way to celebrate the Resur-

rection than to see someone turn from darkness to light, from the hopeless bondage of sin to the joyful freedom of salvation?

John 15:16, NKJV, "...I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain..."

~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 ~ April 1, 2025

Spring Greetings to you! This is a wonderful month where we have the privilege of celebrating the greatest event in the history of mankind, when Jesus, as Mark 10:45 tells us, "gave His life as a ransom for many." Revelation 1:8 tells us, "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death." Please be praying for our Palm Sunday (April 13 @ 10:30am), Good Friday (Friday, April 18 @ 12 noon, in lieu of Bible Study April 16) and Resurrection Sunday (April 20 @ 10:30am) services, and prayerfully consider who you can invite!

Gary and I want to thank you for your prayers and support for us as we trav-

eled to India last month to attend the graduation of the New Theological College (NTC) founded by Brother George and Leela Chavani-kamannil. It was a wonderful time of ministry at the Pastor's Conference, and as we toured the college and met students and pastors who are advancing God's Kingdom all over the world!

At the end of this month we will be going to Houston for the Grace International Conference, April 28 - May 1. Please keep the conference in prayer as well as all of the pastors and missionaries who will be traveling. This is a time of refreshing for us to gather together and celebrate God's goodness! Our very own Pastor Sam Rios will be sharing the Word while

we are away, Sunday, April 27 @ 10:30am. You will be blessed by his ministry!

We continue to enjoy learning together through Bible Study each Wednesday @ 11am. This month Pastor Curt Cornelius will be sharing the Word with us April 30 @ 11am. We always hear wonderful reports of how much people are encouraged and blessed by Pastor Curt's teaching.

We invite you to join us this first Sunday, April 6 in our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is the time to partake together and in this way we obey Jesus' command to, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Looking forward to Sunday,  
*Pastor Sheri & Gary Leming*