



# Faith Christian Assembly

## May Newsletter

May 1, 2023

### Special points of interest:

- \* Pastor Sheri & Gary on Back to Basics~ page 1
- \* Earlene Leming on Victory Ahead ~ page 2
- \* May Calendar ~ page 3
- \* Fun Facts about Mother's Day ~ page 3

### Inside this issue:

Earlene's Corner	2
Back to Basics cont	2
May Calendar	3
Back to Basics continued	3
Mother's Day Fun Facts	3
Letter from Pastor Sheri	4
Grace Intl History	4

### Back to Basics *by Pastor Sheri and Gary Leming*

Gary and I would like to dedicate this May Newsletter to our precious mothers. We will be forever grateful to God for the blessing they have been to us. Thank you Ginny Vaughn and Earlene Leming for equipping us to face the days of sunshine, and the days of rain and modeling for us what it looks like to walk through each day in the fear of the Lord.

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills - From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth."

~Psalm 121:1-2

There are times in our lives when the circumstances that we think are awful, are turned by God into something good - this is His plan.

As Joseph told his brothers: "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." ~ Genesis 50:20

For those of you who don't know it, Gary has just come through a four month ordeal with his health. He was forced to be home from church for 8 weeks. This was a first for him to ever miss this much church in his entire life. We are grateful for all of the prayers that God has graciously answered, and happy to be on the other side of the trauma. Gary recently shared with the people of Faith Christian Assembly some of the lessons he learned through

his experiences. So many were helped by it, that we want to share some of it here.

Gary said he chose Psalm 121 as an example to keep going because during one of the most difficult nights of pain and trauma in the ER this is the Scripture that God brought to his mind. It came to him at the point that he just wanted out...he wanted to escape because the pain was more intense than he had ever experienced. I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence comes my help? Where do we look for help? So many of us rely upon doctors - which is understandable, but what happens when the doctors can't help?

Continued page 2

## Victory Ahead *by Earlene Leming*



Earlene Leming

God gives us vision and ability to accomplish His plans. The adversary tries to stop us by sending a "spirit of fear". This produces emotions of failure, hopelessness, discouragement, and other negative thoughts. God intends to TEACH us how to use our life on earth to DEFEAT the enemy. He gave us some mighty Weapons!

Weapon #1. THE NAME and BLOOD of JESUS. When you first realize you are under a

mental, emotional attack, learn to speak: "In Jesus Name, I resist the spirit of fear. I am covered with the precious Blood of Jesus. No evil can harm me." 2 Timothy 1:7

Weapon #2. The WORD OF GOD. In John 10:10, Jesus said, "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I am come to bring you abundant life.". Discouragement is a subtle way the enemy steals your JOY. If you allow

yourself to THINK very long on problems, you will also lose your STRENGTH. Learn to stop the thief by speaking God's WORD aloud: "The joy of the Lord is my strength." Nehemiah 8:10

Weapon #3...PRAISE & WORSHIP. After you pray over a situation, do not try to fight thoughts with thoughts. Thank Jesus for the answer. Sing, play praise songs. II Chronicles 20. ~ Earlene

## Back to Basics *continued from page 1*

Where do we look? It was at this point that Gary felt God tell him to go 'back to basics'...

Many of you know that my Gary is a golfer. He said when the term 'back to basics' came to his mind - he remembered when Gary Player gave Jack Nicklaus a golf lesson - despite the fact that these golf legends have 25 major championships between them. Gary Player was instructing Jack Nicklaus on the basic backswing position he should have.

God bringing this to Gary's

mind during his medical crisis encouraged him in that moment to focus on the basics in his relationship with God. Specifically the basics of the fact that God is a friend...that sticks closer than a brother, and He is someone we can talk to even in the worst moments.

James 2:23, ..."Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

This seemingly simple fact is what God used to walk Gary and me through some of the

darkest days we have ever faced. God is better than any golf legend...He is Mightier than any doctor. He is the Great Physician. He is the LORD who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 145:18, "The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."

My Nona Vaughn has a phrase that we often quote in our family. "God can pull you through anything —if you can stand the pullin'!"

Continued Page 3

## May Calendar

### SUNDAYS

*Service Times:*

10:30am and

5:30pm

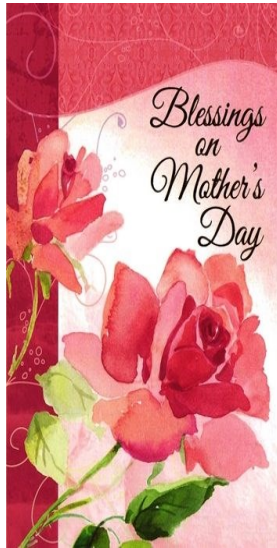
Pre-service prayer

5:00 pm

May 7 - Communion  
service 10:30 am

May 14 - NO EVEN-  
ING SERVICE

MONDAYS— Office  
Closed



### TUESDAYS

Church Office/Library  
Hours

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Call for appointment

### WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 11:00 am

May 10—Health Class  
with Susan Kelleghan at  
11:00am

### THURSDAYS

May 18 - 1:00 pm Men's  
Ministry meeting &

Touch of Love Women's  
Ministry meeting

### FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours

10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Call for appointment

## Back to Basics ~ *continued from page 2*

"He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies."

~Psalm 23:3-5a NLT

Jesus is our Great Shepherd. He walks with us in the sunshine and through the darkest valley. Those challenges

that take us by surprise - those challenges that we consider to be our enemies - He wants to prepare a feast for us and dine with us (Revelation 3:20), even in the midst of our trauma.

"While it looks like things are out of control behind the scenes there is a God who has not surrendered authority." ~ A.W. Tozer

~ Gary and Sheri

### FUN FACTS ABOUT MOTHER'S DAY!

**Mother's Day became official on May 19, 1914.** President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation declaring Mother's Day an official holiday on May 9, 1914. But the idea began in 1908 when a woman named Anna Jarvis started Mother's Day to honor her own mom, who had worked tirelessly serving moms after the Civil War.

**Mother's Day is the third most attended church service.** Many will start their Mother's Day celebration by attending church with their moms, making Mother's Day the third most-attended church service behind Easter and Christmas!

**The most common gift given is a greeting card...** no surprise there, but did you also know that Mother's Day is the busiest restaurant day of the year? According to a recent survey, what moms want most for Mother's Day is to dine out with her family.



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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 ~ May 1, 2023

I just love the month of May! We celebrate Mother's Day - which is always a special time to give honor to those precious treasures who raised us. Charles Spurgeon is quoted as saying, I cannot tell you how much I owe to the solemn word of my good mother. In addition to Mother's Day - I personally enjoy the month of May because I get to celebrate the day that Gary was born. This Newsletter tells the story of the four month journey that God graciously brought us through with Gary's health. We pray it encourages you in your walk through those dark days that life can bring. We serve a Mighty and Faithful God!

We invite you to join us as we honor our moms on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14 in our

10:30am service. All of the ladies in attendance will receive a gift as a token of our appreciation for all that you do for your families! (There is no evening service May 14)

Have you ever heard someone say, "I wish there was a manual to get me through life!" The great news is... THERE IS! It's the Bible! We invite you to come to Bible Study every Wednesday @ 11am. We will dive into God's Word which reveals His plan for the way we walk around this world and draw others to Him.

Please be sure to join us this first Sunday of May for our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is such a set apart time to partake together

and in this way we obey Jesus command to, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Please join us for pre-service prayer this Sunday at 5pm, before our 5:30pm Sunday Evening Service.

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." Psalm 68:18

"The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry." Psalm 35:15

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." ~Abraham Lincoln

Looking forward to Sunday,

Pastor Sheri and Gary  
Leming