



Faith Christian Assembly

August Newsletter

➤➤➤ August 1, 2023

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Shall we Gather at the River? *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

I am a girl who loves words. Of course, I love The Word of God most of all. But I also enjoy collecting quotes that are meaningful to me and that I know I will use later on. Gary and I love to challenge each other playing Wordle. If you haven't played it yet, check it out! I would say one of my favorite words, is the word, "Gather." I am looking forward to Sunday, August 13 after our morning service for our Sunday Lunch Gathering! (See the Calendar section of this Newsletter) I have had the privilege of gathering together with other believers my whole life. This blessing has enriched my life in more ways than I can count. But I read a painful quote the other day that describes the current state

of our gathering together as a culture:

"We are a nation equally afraid of gathering together as being alone."

This must be reflecting back on the pandemic. However, I also believe that we are seeing a resistance to gathering that has hung on well past COVID. I have observed churches and heard the concern of other pastors about the sad fact that so many have lost their way. Many have allowed the once familiar habit of gathering at God's House to grow cold... dormant. These things come at the expense of our own souls. This isn't my opinion, this is what Scripture has to say. The assumption of the Word of God is...that we will gather

together. First of all, we will gather in His Name (Matthew 18:20)...we will gather together to eat...In fact, 1 Corinthians 11:33 says, not 'if' we gather, but "when" we come together. The New Testament has countless references to one of the purposes of gathering is to "encourage one another" (Romans 1:12; Hebrews 3:13)

Corrie ten Boom once said, "When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles."

Dr. Lowry's most famous hymn is "Shall we gather at the river?" A very severe epidemic was raging in Brooklyn, and hundreds were passing over the river of death.

~ Continued page 2

Ministry Emphasis Night Aug 20 Featuring Shepherd Foundation



**Earlene Leming
President,
Shepherd Foundation**

Faith Christian Assembly is excited to bring you the next Ministry Emphasis night Sunday August 20 at 5:30pm featuring The SHEPHERD FOUNDATION. We will hear from the organization's president Earlene Leming. Shepherd Foundation was founded in the 1950's by Phil and Marie Thatcher as an outreach to incarcerated men. Phil was called the "father of prison ministry" because he was one of the first men who returned to preach the Gospel where he was once a criminal.

Marie continued the ministry after his death, and Earlene was invited to serve on her Board. In 1995 after Marie had to step down due to health reasons, the operation of the non-profit was turned over to the Board. Earlene was made President and her driver Tim Cox became Treasurer...and God still operates Shepherd Foundation, serving incarcerated men and women, by donations from His people.

Earlene's journey with the Shepherd Foundation is an ex-

ample of choosing to follow Jesus through His open doors, and trusting Him for the impossible.

Join us for Ministry Emphasis Night, which promises to be an inspirational night of testimonies and glory to God for what He is doing through this ministry for the incarcerated!

A free copy of Earlene's new *Vessels of Honor* book will be given to all in attendance that evening!

Shall We Gather at the River? *continued from page 1*

Dr. Lowry was thinking of the sad scenes all around him when the question arose in his mind, "Shall we meet again? We are parting at the river of death; shall we meet at the river of life?"

With his heart full of these thoughts, both the words and the music of the famous hymn came to him as if by inspiration (based on Revelation 22:1-2):

Shall we gather at the river, Where bright angel-feet have trod, With its crystal tide forever; Flowing by the throne of God?

Chorus: Yes, we'll gather at the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river; Gather with the saints at the river; That flows by the throne of God.

Take a look at what these powerful men of God had to say about the importance of the fellowship of believers:

"Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays." ~ Andrew Murray

"Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians

apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in... Since union is strength, Satan does his best to promote separation. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people."

~Charles Spurgeon

"Make it a rule, and pray to God to help you to keep it, never, if possible, to lie down at night without being able to say: "I have made one human being at least a little wiser, or a little happier, or at least a little better this day."

~Charles Kingsley

August Calendar

SUNDAYS

Service Times: 10:30am and 5:30pm/Pre-service prayer 5:00pm

August 6 – Communion service 10:30am

August 13—Sunday lunch gathering! NO EVENING SERVICE

August 20– Ministry Emphasis Night 5:30pm

MONDAYS

Office Closed



Welcome August!

TUESDAYS

Church Office/Library Hours

10:00am to 4:00pm

Call for appointment

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 11:00am

THURSDAYS

August 3 –Pray, Share, & Act Class

1:00pm

THURSDAYS cont

GriefShare—weekly at 6:00pm

No Men's and TOL

Women's Ministry

meetings in August—

resumes September 21

FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours

10:00am to 4:00pm.

Call for appointment

GriefShare Ministry Emphasis Night Recap

GriefShare was the centerpiece of Ministry Emphasis Night during the Sunday evening service last month on July 9th as those in attendance heard from leaders Rupert and Addie Penner, who shared their own stories. Program alumna, Naomi Reed moved those in attendance as well as she shared her experience with what she called a "remarkable program." She said that the group "has been instrumental in helping me navigate the difficult path of grief following the passing of my husband of 38 years."

Quotes from Naomi's testimony

of her GriefShare experience:

"When I first attended GriefShare, I must admit that I was very apprehensive, the weight of my loss felt unbearable and I was uncertain if I would find solace or understanding within a group setting with people I didn't know.... However from the first meeting I was warmly welcomed and impressed by the members of the group, especially Addie and Rupert...."

"One aspect of GriefShare that truly stood out to me was the absence of pressure – pressure to speak – if I didn't feel

ready, no pressure to put on a brave face when all I wanted to do was weep—and no pressure to conform to any particular timeline of healing. The approach allowed me the freedom to process my grief at my own pace knowing that I had a safe and supportive environment to lean on until I felt ready..."

"I am discovering a renewed sense of purpose... GriefShare is truly a testament to the love and compassion that exists in the church and I am grateful for the impact that it

has had on my healing journey."

GriefShare is currently in session, and is always open to join. The group meets each Thursday at 6:00pm in the Garden Room. If you would like a CD copy of the complete July 9 evening please call the church office to order.

Join us for the next Ministry Emphasis night on Sunday August 20 at 5:30 pm when The Shepherd Foundation, serving the incarcerated, is featured.(see article page 2)



13820 Seal Beach Blvd
P.O. Box 3444
Seal Beach, CA

Phone: 562-598-9010
Email: contact@fcachurch.net

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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 ~ August 1, 2023

Hello August! I'll ask you my favorite question for August, "Is it hot enough for ya?" I'm grateful the Marine Layer seems to be gone for the most part. The sunshine is such a blessing! Psalm 121 proclaims in verses 5-6, "The LORD watches over you - the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night!"

We invite you to join us this summer as we head to The Mount! We are enjoying our study of The Sermon on the Mount! Bible Study meets every Wednesday @ 11am. We dive into God's Word which reveals His plan for the way we walk around this world and draw others to Him.

Sunday, August 13, directly following our 10:30 am service, we are going to have a

Sunday Lunch Gathering! This will be a time that we can fellowship together over lunch. There is nothing for you to bring except a heart of friendship that delights to encourage! There will be no Sunday Evening Service on August 13.

Sunday, August 20 in our 5:30pm service, Gary Leming and Earlene Leming will be treating us to some special music! In addition, Earlene Leming will be sharing with us some of the amazing stories from her new revised and updated edition of, "Vessels of Honor". You will be blessed to hear of women who the Master Potter has formed into lovely vessels!

Please be sure to join us this first Sunday of August 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.

1 John 5:14 ~ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." ~ Max Lucado

Looking forward to Sunday, Pastor Sheri and Gary Leming