



Faith Christian Assembly

October Newsletter

October 1, 2023

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A Cover from the Tempest *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

I will never forget the strongest storm I have ever experienced. Gary and I were on a ministry trip to Trinidad. Nearing the end of our excursion, Brother Keith and Radica Ramdass had taken us to the beach to enjoy a brief respite before we boarded our plane for home. As we walked on the gorgeous beach of Trinidad, seemingly out of nowhere the rain began - not as a sprinkle, but a deluge. I was concerned that the passport in my pocket would be ruined. We had no umbrella, not even a hat. We had no 'cover' to protect us from the tempest.

There are seasons in our lives when storms enter with a vengeance. In these times we feel exposed to the wind and the waves. The torrents of life seem to relentlessly blast us without mercy. But thankfully, we as believers can confidently trust in God's Word, which promises us a hiding place, a cover from the tempest...

Isaiah 32:2, A Man will be as a

hiding place from the wind, And a cover from the tempest, As rivers of water in a dry place, As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

It's obvious who this 'Man' is referring to ultimately. All we have to do is take even a casual glance back through the centuries for they are a witness to us that there is only one Man who can be trusted to be our refuge from the tempest. Jesus is the One we can run to. He is the One we can hide in and in whom we are safe. He is the only One who refreshes us and gives us peace in the midst of the storm.

Isaiah reminds us in another passage... "For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall." Isaiah 25:4
MacLaren's Expositions: "The only reference of these words which gives full value to their

wealth of blessing, is to regard them as a prophecy of the Man-Christ Jesus; hiding in whom we are safe, 'coming' to whom we 'never thirst,' guarded and blest by whom no weariness can befall us, and dwelling in whom this weary world shall be full of refreshment and peace!"

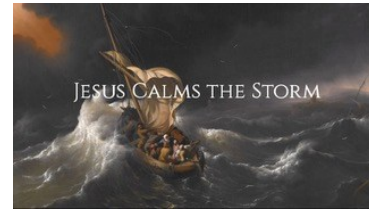
Isaiah 32:2 ends by saying that He is, "As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

According to Professor G.A. Smith, there are places in the East, wherever the desert touches a river, valley, or oasis, that the sand is in a continual state of drift from the wind, and it is this drift which is the real cause of the barrenness of such portions of the desert, at least, those that border the fertile land. Due to heavy rains there, plants often spring up through the sand, and there is sometimes promise of considerable fertility. But this fertility never lasts.

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A Cover from the Tempest

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Down comes the periodic sand drift, and life is stunted or choked out. (Side note as to the power of these sand drifts, I just read that this past July there were sand drifts found in South Florida that originated in the Sahara!) But set down a rock on the desert sand, and see the difference its presence makes. After a few showers, to the sheltered side of this rock, some blades will spring up; if you have patience, you will see in time a garden. How has the rock produced this? Simply by blocking the drift.

Isaiah 32:2 tells us this rock is found in a weary land - a land where there is fatigue and where one is feeling overwhelmed without any refreshment and shelter. There are places in Africa where the temperature in the shade stays at 100 degrees —where the slightest breeze feels like a flame coming against the face. But in the distance there can be found a huge rock leaning against a small cliff facing the sun where one can go for refuge underneath its cool shade where the coolness emitted from this rock can be counted on to be exquisitely refreshing.

This is what we find in our Savior, Psalm 18:2: The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Charles Spurgeon on Isaiah 32:2...

“What a hiding-place He has been to His people! He bears the full force of the wind Himself, and so He shelters those who hide themselves in Him. We have thus escaped the wrath of God, and we shall thus escape the anger of men, the cares of this life, and the dread of death. Why do we stand in the wind when we may so readily and so surely get out of it by hiding behind our Lord? Let us this day run to Him, and be at peace.”

A Shelter in the Time of Storm

The Lord's our Rock in Him we hide, A Shelter in the time of storm, Secure whatever ill be tide, A Shelter in the time of storm

Chorus: Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A weary land, a

weary land, Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A shelter in the time of storm

A shade by day, defense by night, A Shelter in the time of storm, No fears alarm, no foes a-fright, A Shelter in the time of storm

The raging storm may round us beat, A Shelter in the time of storm, We'll never leave our safe retreat, A Shelter in the time of storm

O Rock Divine, O Refuge dear A Shelter in the time of storm Be Thou our Helper ever near, A Shelter in the time of storm

Isaiah 4:5-6, NKJV:

...then the Lord will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.

~ Pastor Sheri

October Calendar

SUNDAYS

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

October 1 – Communion service 10:30am

October 15 – Guest speaker Pastor Curt Cornelius 10:30 am and 5:30 pm services

MONDAYS/Closed



TUESDAYS

Church Office and Library Hours 10:00am to 4:00pm. Call ahead

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 11:00am weekly

October 11 – Health Class with Susan Kelleghan 11:00 am

October 18 – Guest speaker Addie Penner 11:00 am

THURSDAYS

GriefShare – 6:00pm weekly in the Garden Room

October 19 - Men's Ministry 1:00 main sanctuary

October 19 – Touch of Love Women's Ministry 1:00 pm Garden room

FRIDAYS

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

Seal Beach PD Presents Scam Prevention Class at Faith Christian Assembly

We would like to extend a big thank you to our Seal Beach Police Department for taking the time to present the Scam Prevention Class to our congregation here at Faith Christian Assembly recently. With scams on the rise, it's always a challenge to stay a step ahead of the scammers who seem to be getting more and more creative in their pursuits.

Chief of Police Michael Henderson and Detective Jon Ainley generously offered advice and information to better arm us for any encounters that may come our way. We appreciate our Seal Beach Police Department very much, and it means a lot to know that they are not only attending to their police duties with such excellence, but are

available for educating and helping us here in the community in other ways as well.

Thanks SBPD!





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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 ~ October 1, 2023

Fall has graciously arrived! We are entering my favorite season! And even more than Pumpkin Spice Latte's - I love the colors, the scents and hopefully the gratitude that we focus on in the Fall! Gary and I have just returned from Grace International's Regional Conference in Oceanside. It was a rich time to gather together with other pastors and enjoy some much needed fellowship as we worshiped together and enjoyed prayer and the Word. Pastor Vaughn is traveling with the Regional team to all of the conferences. He is being mightily used as he shares insights and wisdom that effortlessly flow from his life.

We invite you to join us for Bible Study which meets every Wednesday @ 11am. We dive into God's Word which reveals His plan for the way

we should walk around this world as He draws others to Himself. Isaiah 40:8 tells us, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever."

Susan Kelleghan will be teaching a Health Class on Wednesday, October 11 at 11am. Susan is such a blessing as she shares insights on health that she has gleaned from her many years of working in healthcare. We love to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about living a healthy lifestyle which helps us to be good stewards of these temples that God has given us.

Sunday, October 15 in our 10:30am and 5:30pm services, we are excited to welcome Pastor Curt Cornelius. Pastor Curt has a love for the Word and a passion to share

it as lives are transformed. Please join us as you will be blessed!

Please be sure to join us this first Sunday of October 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 Service.

"I urge, then...that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people." 1 Timothy 2:1

"Preaching never edifies a prayerless soul."-

E.M. Bounds

Looking forward to Sunday,
Pastor Sheri and Gary
Leming