



# Faith Christian Assembly

## February Newsletter

February 1, 2024

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



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Can I be honest with you? Of course, what are you going to say? No? I'm not a big fan of Winter. I find Winter to be, first of all - COLD. Yes, I realize that this is ridiculous, due to the fact that I live in Southern California. Nevertheless, I'm cold. Also — Winter can feel grim, and leave one with a sense of fruitlessness. It is a time of more night than day. I've said before - on those dark and cloudy mornings which can feel a bit grim - I miss the bright shining sun. The plants in my yard have lost their vibrant color and even appear to be dying in these winter months.

I don't recall feeling this way in my youth. But as the years pass I find myself

wanting to run from the Winter season - and rush to Spring. Have you ever been tempted to rush to the 'next season'?

As much as we'd like to get to there — God's Word makes it clear to us that His purposes prevail in each season - and that there is a time for all things!

Ecclesiastes 3:1, To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven

As believers, our confidence comes from believing God's Word when it tells us that God by His providence governs the world. It is He - not we, who has determined our times. And in His sovereignty, at one

time or another - we have Winter. But if we war against Winter, then as Adam Clarke warns, "we sin against this providence, and become the authors of our own distresses." Rather, let us soberly remember that God has given man a time to carry out His purposes.

John 15:8, By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;

But surely not in Winter, right? You can't bear fruit in the Winter time, can you? Well, how do you feel about oranges, Meyer lemons, grapefruit, pears, or pomegranates? These are Winter fruits that reach their peak in December.

Continued page 3



Earlene Leming

## You are What God Says You Are *by Earlene Leming*

YOU are VALUABLE to GOD. You are HIS Child, created with unique abilities for a purpose! Your VALUE is NOT on what you do or what others say. When you focus on life's problems, you will have fear & anxiety. Do NOT listen to negative words. Learn to SAY what GOD SAYS YOU ARE. His Word has power to change your life by changing your attitude. His Promises will bring YOU hope, peace and new vision.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." Jeremiah 1:5 & Psalm 139:14

Here is a contrast of what YOU SAY/GOD SAYS:

It's impossible/"The things

that are impossible with men are possible with God—Luke 18:27

I can't do it/I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me—Philippians 4:13

I'm afraid/God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and a sound mind—2 Timothy 1:7

I'm too tired/Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest—Matthew 11:28

I feel so alone/For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you—Hebrews 13:5

No one loves me/I have loved

you with an everlasting love—Jeremiah 31:2

I can't forgive myself/If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from unrighteousness

I'm worried and frustrated/Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you—2 Peter 5:7

I can't figure this out/Trust in the Lord with all your heart, acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths—Proverbs 3:5-8

GOD SAYS: I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

### ~All Church Prayer: Saturday, February 10 at 11am~

**You are invited** to join us Saturday, February 10, from 11am-12 noon for a time of prayer.

Luke 18:1, "...men always ought to pray and not lose heart"

~Pastor Sheri



## February Calendar

### SUNDAYS

Service Time: 10:30am

February 4 - Communion service 10:30am

February 25—special guest speaker Pastor Gywn Vaughn

### MONDAYS

Office Closed

### TUESDAYS

Church Office/

Library Hours

10:00am to 4:00pm

Call for appointment



### WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study—11:00am

### THURSDAYS

Men's and Women's Ministry meetings Thursday February 15—1:00 pm

### FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours

10:00am to 4:00pm. Call for appointment

### SATURDAY

February 10—All Church Prayer—11:00am to 12:00pm

## Bearing Fruit in Winter *continued from page 1 by Pastor Sheri Leming*

Let's believe God's Word and stop assuming that our lives cannot bear Godly fruit in those Winter seasons of our lives. Think for a moment about Joseph. He had big dreams about his future. Then he came to Dothan. His brothers sold him into slavery, and on and on it went, from one 'Wintery' scene to the next. But in each of those afflictions he faced, God was glorified through his life.

Let's remember what he said upon the birth of his second son,

Genesis 41:52, NKJV "And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused

me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

I pray that we stop thinking that fruitfulness can only come in those happy, happy, happy seasons.

Matthew Henry: To expect unchanging happiness in a changing world, must end in disappointment.

Colossians 1:10, "Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God..."

I'm enjoying a devotional this year by J.R. Miller in which he states, "There is nothing like

life's drudgery to make men and women of us. You chafe under it. You sigh... Yet this is God's school for you. We do not grow most in the easiest life. Do all well - do always your best and you will grow into strong, noble character."

If you are in a Winter Season, I encourage you to plant yourself by the living water of Jesus and ask Him to strengthen and enable you to bear the fruit of the Spirit - the fruit of sustained interaction with God. Look for the ways that you can uniquely bear fruit in this season and

pray for growth, even in a wintry time.

Psalm 1:1-3, NKJV The Way of the Righteous and the End of the Ungodly

Blessed is the man, Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

~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 ~February 1, 2024

As we welcome February we send the warmest greetings to you all! It is so good to know as we face the sometimes uncertain days ahead that we can put our hope and our trust in Almighty God, who time and again has proven Himself faithful. We are excited about all that God has in store for 2024. We are thrilled and thankful to God for allowing us to journey together.

By now you should have received your letter of receipt for your giving in 2023. And if you regularly used the envelope system, you should have received our annual report. We are overwhelmed by all that God did through your giving in 2023! It was another record breaking year of giving to Missions! We thank you again for your obedience to God and your generosity in helping us advance the kingdom of God here at

Faith Christian Assembly and abroad through both local and foreign missions. We are grateful for the provision of God.

You will want to be sure to 'Save the Date' of Sunday, February 25 at 10:30am - we are thrilled to have Pastor Vaughn speaking for us! He always blesses us so richly as he delivers God's Word. You will not want to miss this!

We encourage you to come and join us Saturday, February 10 at 11am for a time of All Church Prayer. We read in Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Oswald Chambers said, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work."

Please join us!

We invite you to join us this first Sunday in February in 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 by joining us for Bible Study every Wednesday at 11am. God's Word shows us His plan for the way we should walk around this world as He draws others to Himself. Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

Looking forward to Sunday,  
Pastor Sheri and Gary  
Leming