Welcome to the Spring edition of “A Light in the Valley.” We have some of your favorite columns in this issue as well as some new ones. Brad Mann will be writing a new regular column called “Christian Computer Corner.” It’s full of tips to help us use our computers more effectively. I’m not sure as the old gospel song goes that “Jesus would wear a Rolex on His television show,” but if He were spreading the Gospel today, He would probably have a computer. In fact He is spreading the Gospel through our website!

Mother’s Day and Father’s Day are just around the corner so be sure to check the pages we have devoted to the Moms, Dads, and Grandparents. Also we are starting a new section called “I Love to Tell the Story” where people share how they came to have a relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ! We’re hoping everyone will want to share his or her story. What better way to be a “Light in the Valley!”

How To Prepare for the Lord’s Supper
It is becoming increasingly clear that God desires a heart to heart relationship with His bride, the church. From every direction I look: sermons, books, counselings, seminars, retreats, you name it, I sense that there’s a move of the Spirit leading us into the heart of God. This has always been God’s desire, but for some reason, we, or maybe just I, have been too dense to get the message.

He is always telling us to come to Him. He will give us rest. He loves us SO much; He gave His Son to die for our sins so we could live. He yearns to protect us, comfort us, bless us, answer our every need, even give us our heart’s desire. He tells us that we are the focus of His love. Read the scriptures in Ephesians 1:3-14 in case there is any doubt. They contain quite a message! We’ve been BLESSED, CHOSEN, PREDESTINED, ACCEPTED, REDEEMED, FORGIVEN, THEN MADE INHERITORS, THEN SEALED WITH THE VERY HEART OF GOD. How’s that for focused attention?

How should we respond?

As we prepare for our dinner with Jesus, our special time where we renew our vows with Him, to be faithful lovers of God above all things on earth, I would like to challenge you to whisper in His ear, “I Love You, Lord. Take me and use me fully to Your glory.” Tell Him how much you love him, and that there is nothing that you wouldn’t do for Him. Let Him know that you do trust Him, and you are now ready to make your love for Him unconditional, as His is for you.

He shared His heart with us 3,500 years ago in Deuteronomy 30:11 long before He came and died for us and ratified the new covenant. He said that what He asks for is not too difficult for us or beyond our reach. In verse 14, this word we can whisper is in our heart and only needs to come out of our mouth. And again in verse 20, please read in your own Bible, as He repeats this plain and simple covenant to choose to love Him, listen to His voice and hold fast to Him, for He IS our life. So simple, yet so avoided.

This year as we prepare for our traditional, annual recommitment of surrendering to Jesus, focus on your love for Him. Share your heart with Him. Tell Him how much you love Him, and that you are ready to listen to Him intently, and to hold fast to Him. Tell Him that He IS your life, now and forever. Whisper in His ear, “Take me, Lord, and use me fully to Your glory.” And then watch God begin to work in your life!!!!!!!
He’s My Daddy

Don Gosset recounts a story from his childhood in his book, There’s Dynamite in Praise, that goes something like this. During the Great Depression his dad like so many others was out of work. He had a job offer in another town so the family moved but soon that job fizzled out. They were left with just enough bus fare money for his wife and two children to return home.

“But how will you get home?” his mom asked with concern in her voice.

“Don’t worry. I’ll hitch hike,” Dad replied confidently.

So with a heavy heart Mom and the kids boarded the bus. When they reached the edge of town little Donnie caught a glimpse of his dad along side of the road, thumb out, looking for a ride. The excitement overtook him and he rushed to the window pointing and yelling to the other passengers, “There’s my daddy.”

His mother was embarrassed but that didn’t stop Donnie who kept saying with the openness of a child and the love in his heart for his father, “That’s my daddy!” He was intent on everyone on the bus knowing that was his dad!

In our Christian walk, I wonder if we aren’t more like the mother in this story than the child, just a little embarrassed. Instead of sharing all the wonderful things God, our Father, our Dad, does for us, we try to stay incognito, almost fearful that someone will find out who we really are. I’m not saying we should cram Jesus down everyone’s throat but when the occasion arises, and it will, especially if we are looking for an opportunity to point people to God, we shouldn’t shy away from it. Of course, if God the Father has done nothing for you, you have nothing to share. But I suspect He has done plenty.

The funny thing is, God is not embarrassed to be our Father and He probably should be, considering the many times we act as if we are embarrassed to be associated with Him. You know, evangelism doesn’t have to be some dreaded, arduous chore. Sometimes it can be as easy as pointing to heaven and saying, “He’s my Dad!”

As far back as I can remember I always went to church. It was just what our family did. But as I got older I thought I might be missing out on something. I felt our church had a lot of restrictions. Everyone else seemed to be having a pretty good time and they weren’t going to church every week. So during my senior year in high school I started going to more school activities and parties that weren’t connected with my church. Then I went to college. During my first year at college I went to a party. The music was loud and everyone was smoking cigarettes and “pot” and getting drunk and everything else. All of a sudden I thought, “My God, what am I doing here?” I managed to find a quiet room on the third floor. It was a little study that overlooked a garden. I knew the kind of life this party represented was not the way I wanted to go. There I talked to God and asked Him to forgive me for my sins and come into my life. And He did!

I’ve never once been sorry about that decision or looked back. Some may ask, “How do you know there’s a God and He’s interested in you?” I say, “When your time comes you WILL know and you won’t have to ask that question.”

Mine is not a very dynamic story but I’m thankful for my relationship with God. It gives me such peace of mind. I always know that no matter what happens or what is currently going on, the end result will be good.

Cheryl Becker
Farewell to My Friend Jo

By Betty Shamus

Even though I’ve known Jo Merwin for more than 25 years in our church, it wasn’t until my husband, Larry, and I started taking her to her doctor appointments that I REALLY learned a lot about her. Jo became a widow about 4 years ago. Her husband, Bob, was a wonderful man, generous and kind. They were both active senior members of our congregation, giving helping hands to those in need.

In recent years, Sean, her grandson, took over her care. Sean has his hands full in caring for “Grammy” and working fulltime. Jo always remarks to me that she wouldn’t know what to do without Sean. She loves him dearly.

Jo just turned 92 in March and loves to remember “Back When” with me. Her health and strength are steadily declining. She tells me she feels useless because others have to DO for her!

This is the Jo who only a few years ago fell out of her tree while picking fruit! She was a youthful 85 and still climbing ladders. This is the Jo who took care of her own yard with many fruit trees and beautiful flowers. This is the Jo who cooked for brethren in her home after church. One time during an impromptu drop-in, the food on hand was limited. So everyone enjoyed grilled cheese sandwiches and Campbell’s tomato soup. She still laughs about that fun day.

Her daughter who lives in Ohio plans to move Jo back there this summer. Jo’s not too happy about leaving her home. Change is difficult for anyone, but giving up her home and losing her independence is overwhelming for her. Despite the heaviness in her heart, she hasn’t lost her sense of humor. One day while waiting for her doctor to come in the room at Kaiser, she was remembering things she used to do, and suddenly broke out in a song: “The Old Grey Mare, She Ain’t What She Used to Be.” Of course, I had to join in singing with her. We both laughed and wondered if the room was “wired” and the staff was out there listening to us.

Instead of celebrating Jo’s 92nd birthday at church with the brethren as was planned, we got diverted and spent the day at Kaiser Hospital because Jo was in great pain. After getting some pain medication, we had the opportunity to celebrate the day with dinner at Hometown Buffet (Jo’s favorite place). Larry and I waited on her, bringing tons of food, which she devoured with glee. When we got back to her house, we had more surprises from the church brethren—yummy chocolate cake and beautiful flowers! Her face lit up as she told us to thank everyone for the cake, the bouquet of flowers and, most of all, continued prayers.

I pray her family gives her the loving care she needs as she and Sean make Ohio their new home. We’ll give you her Ohio address after she moves.

Martha and Mary

Martha in the kitchen, serving with her hands,
Occupied for Jesus with her pots and pans.
Loving Him, yet fevered, burdened to the brim,
Careful, troubled Martha, occupied for Him.
Mary on the footstool, eyes upon her Lord,
Occupied with Jesus, drinking in His word.
This one thing was needful, all else strangely dim;
Loving, resting Mary, occupied with Him.
So may we, like Mary, choose the better part:
Resting in His presence, hands and feet and heart;
Drinking in His wisdom, strengthened by His grace;
Waiting for the summons, eyes upon His face.
When it comes, we’re ready, spirit, will, and nerve;
Mary’s heart to worship, Martha’s hand to serve;
This the rightful order, as our lamps we trim:
Occupied WITH Jesus, then occupied FOR Him!

Author Unknown
Pastor Mel “Wins the Lottery”

By Larry Shamus

At a KFAX Pastor’s Appreciation Breakfast last November, Pastor Mel literally “won the lottery.” And yes, he wants to share his winnings with all of us. BUT, before you run to Macy’s, Sears and Penney’s to spend your portion, let me explain.

There was a real live lottery, but the prize wasn’t millions of dollars; it was a satellite dish and a year’s worth of free Christian seminars and workshops presented by the Church Communication Network (CCN). And out of hundreds of pastors, God chose our own Pastor Mel to be the winner. Lucky us!

The Church Communication Network’s mission is to support the local church by providing cross-denominational training and educational programs that help local church staff and lay leaders be more effective in their church roles.

It’s Convenient: first class training and outreach events right in our sanctuary and fellowship hall
We’ll Save Time and Money: no traveling, no scheduling hassles, and no cost to attend these seminars —yes, it’s free for us
We’ll Learn from the Best: top-quality programs presented by proven Christian leaders
We’ll Build Relationships: our whole congregation will benefit from these team-building seminars

What a blessing! High-Profile Speakers like George Barna, Henry Cloud, Lee Strobel, Hank Hanegraaff, H.B. London, Chuck Colson and many more will bring their insight and wisdom right to our congregation. We can hear from the experts on topics that speak directly to the life of our church and our ministries.

There will be 24-30 programs, so be sure to look for announcements about specific times these seminars will be broadcast. Let’s plan to use this tool that God has provided to build up our local congregation.

Christian Computer Corner

By Brad Mann

Welcome to the first in a series of articles designed to help you use your computer more effectively in your ministry and on the job.

In this and future issues of this newsletter, we will provide tips for beginning to advanced computer users.

This time we’re featuring a basic but often overlooked tool for users of Microsoft Windows operating systems: the Right Click.

Right Click

If you are a user of Microsoft Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000 or XP, chances are that you are using a pointing device known as a mouse, and it probably has at least two buttons. To “click” means to click once with the left button. To “double click” means to click twice in rapid succession with the left mouse button. No wonder most of us are skilled with the left button. Unfortunately, all of that practice with the left button can cause us to let the right button go to waste from a lack of use.

If you’re not in the habit of clicking that right mouse button, you’re missing out on a helpful tool for accessing everything from context-sensitive help to a variety of menu and command options.

For example, right click your desktop, or inside a document you’re working on, or on a link, a picture or an icon. Try selecting some text or a few files then right click for some commonly used (and maybe easily forgotten) options. If you experiment with right clicking in the middle of web pages, you may find that you simply never have to go back up to the menu or button bar again.

Get in the right click habit. It’s one of the best ways to make the most of your mouse and your applications.
Instead of announcing the latest updates about what is happening at www.wcgsouthbay.org, we want to take a step back this issue and look at the bigger picture. We want to share a few thoughts about why we, as a congregation, have a website at all.

Fundamentally our website exists for three primary functions:

1) To proclaim the truth and hope of the Gospel to the world
2) To extend an invitation to our local community and make us easy to find for those looking for a church home or for answers to life’s spiritual questions
3) To provide an easy to use, comprehensive source of congregational information and resources for our own church members

As a congregation, our mission is “to share the love of God and guide people into a committed relationship with Jesus Christ.” These objectives of our congregation’s mission statement are upheld and supported by the three major functions our website seeks to fulfill. Following are a few of the ways our site is fulfilling its purpose.

To proclaim the truth and hope of the Gospel to the world

Our site contains a page of “Scriptures for Hope and Evangelism,” a link for a free viewing of the “Jesus” video, an offer for a free sermon tape, free sermon summaries, scripture searching utilities and a regular weekly column prepared especially for unbelievers. These resources have been utilized by people from numerous countries, as underscored by the fact that we have responded in the past week to sermon tape requests from three countries on three different continents.

A May 2001 Barna Research report indicated that online religious teaching would likely draw an audience of over 100 million adults. Christian Computing Magazine cites Barna research estimating that by 2010, 10-20% of Americans “will rely on the Internet exclusively for their religious experiences.” The same Christian Computing issue refers to USA Today’s assertion that over a quarter of all people who have used the Internet have searched online for religious information. We do not seek to provide a substitute for attending a healthy church, but there is a clear demand around the globe for spiritual information on the Internet. We have the privilege to help meet that demand.

To extend an invitation to our local community and make us easy to find for those looking for a church home or for answers to life’s spiritual questions

Although online content can help share the Gospel, real discipleship is better fostered in a good congregation than exclusively at a computer monitor. Therefore we prominently display our contact information at the top of every page of our site. Silicon Valley residents can readily locate our meeting place address, a contact phone number, and directions to services. We also provide an entire section for visitors to our site, to make it easier to find the subjects in which they are most likely to be interested. On our front page we have a small banner that lists some of life’s fundamental questions, which are answered by Jesus Christ and His way of life. The front page also contains a bold-font invitation to “Join us Saturday at 10:30,” with a link for a map and statement that guests are welcome to bring their prayer requests. We want every visitor to our site to know that he or she is enthusiastically invited to join us for worship and spiritual growth.

To provide an easy to use, comprehensive source of congregational information and resources for our own church members

In this Information Age we are bombarded by data, facts and materials. Managing and organizing it all is beyond overwhelming. Finding last week’s announcement bulletin or this month’s activity calendar, or your notes from a favorite sermon, can be time consuming without a comprehensive filing system. Our site makes it easy for resources such as these and many others to be retrieved in seconds. We provide a special page entitled “Congregation Resources” to highlight some of the favorite features for our members.

In the Silicon Valley it is hard to imagine a church without a website. But we do not have a site simply for its own sake. Our objective is to have an effective site, which supports the mission of the congregation. Of course that requires a significant amount of work and feedback from the congregation and site visitors, so please visit www.wcgsouthbay.org today and share your thoughts on how our site can be even more effective in fulfilling its role.
Tool Network Cooperative Effort Vehicle What is IT?

IT is:  Love In the Name of Christ (Love, INC)

By Joanne Moses

It is a **tool** to enable Christians to help their neighbors in need. It is a **network** of churches that is linked to needy people through the churches’ clearinghouse. It is a **cooperative effort** between churches and service agencies to provide effective help for people in need. It is a **vehicle** to bring church congregations collectively and individually into the helping services arena and gently into the non-believing community.

The objective of the organization, Love, INC, is to enable gifted Christians to respond to needs of people that arise in their community. We in the San Jose congregation of the Worldwide Church of God are linked to it.

Herb and Luanna Leisure did a wonderful job as “contact persons” to Love, INC for the past few years. Pastor Mel did also. Ten months ago it became my privilege to be a “contact person.” Some others who have contributed their time and talents are John Baldwin, Pierre Munro, Belen Wilson, Elise Wilhoyt, and Nita Worsham. Nita also volunteers to be the receptionist at the Love, INC clearinghouse each Tuesday. Even though I am not aware of everyone who has served in this ministry, many thanks to each of you!

Because of your efforts, we have been able to take shut-ins shopping and go shopping for them, give visits and telephone calls with words of encouragement, take them to appointments, and help with legal problems. We also have given estimates on home repairs, done weed pulling, trimmed trees, on-going yard upkeep, and helped a single mother to pay her rent. There are many areas where we can serve. It may only take an hour or two of our time but it means so much more to others.

The main reason for the Love, INC ministry model is this: “Suppose you see a brother or sister in need and are able to help them. If you don’t take pity on them, how can the love of God be in you? Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them to show it by our actions.” I John 3:17,18.

We will soon have the opportunity to fill out a “Talent Survey” that will be kept on our file for services we can collectively and individually do for others. I hope you’ll take the survey and help us to spread the gospel by serving the needy in our community. It’s a great way to show Love, In the Name of Christ! (Love, INC)

Thanks!

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Brotherly Love Social

**By Luanna Leisure**

Wow, was our quarterly social in February a special event! All our socials are nice. They are times when we as a congregation take a little more time to be with one another and fellowship. We have the whole day instead of just a few hours.

This day started off with Church Life given by Luanna Leisure. She introduced the Elders that are now working with the Area Shepherds, who coordinate taking care of the needs of the brethren in their areas. The purpose of the Elders working with the Area Shepherds is to mentor and bond with them and the congregation, as well as to offer encouragement and spiritual support.

Anthony Garside gave the sermon and he gave meaningful insight to fellowship, “Let Brotherly Love Continue.”

Nain and Abby Hulog coordinated setup and decorating the fellowship hall. Mary Harris coordinated the food service. The theme was based around shepherds and their flocks. Tables were arranged in a manner in which we were able to eat with the brethren that live in our own areas, our Area Shepherds and the Elders they are working with. It seemed to be successful because it looked and sounded like the different groups were really visiting and having a good time.

After lunch Calvin Emata set up his surround sound karaoke. This was entertaining and delightful. Many of the brethren enjoyed singing along with the karaoke. What fun it was! Others enjoyed listening to the music and played board games and cards. The whole day was great. Thanks to everyone that worked hard to bring it all together and thanks to everyone that came to enjoy the day.
Karaoke Disc Jockey, Calvin Emata sings with Jo Barnard

Georgette & Calvin Emata

Luanna Leisure explains our Area Shepherds & Elders Program

Elise Wilhoyt directs John Jester to sit with his Area Shepherd

Elders working with Area Shepherds, the Shamus’, Mann’s, Holloways & Chester Harris. Not pictured: Mary Harris & Cliff Higgins

Karaoke Disc Jockey, Calvin Emata sings with Jo Barnard

Rose Deterding & Larry Shamus

Betty Shamus teaches Line Dancing

Dave Essenmacher, Trisha Hertzog, Jeanne Schlick and the Holloway’s enjoying lunch

Ben Arquero
Henriqueta Ojeda
Joanne Moses, Pastor Mel & Bonnie Ferranti

John Sherrod & Joanne Moses play checkers
Sacred Romance Retreat

By Joanne Moses

Every other week Pastor Mel facilitates a Bible study at our fellowship hall using information from the book and workbook entitled “The Sacred Romance, Drawing Closer to the Heart of God.” Our study group decided to have a “Sacred Romance” weekend retreat. So on February 7, 10 of our 20 regular participants were able to get away from the city and head to a cabin in the snow-covered mountains just north of Twain Harte, CA. The happy campers were Pastor Mel, Joanne Burnside, Mike Dreelan, Cliff Higgins, Jim Marshall, Joe Wallace, Melissa Finley, Dan and Enriqueta Lopez and me.

The weekend was spent praying, studying, playing games, and taking long walks in nature with Mike’s faithful companion, a Labrador retriever named Cocoa who quickly became everyone’s friend. We sang praises to God accompanied by Mike and Mel on guitar.

All of us shared in preparing the food. We found that we had some gourmet cooks among us as we dined on crab salad, salmon, homemade tortillas, and pancakes that even IHOP would be envious of. This physical feast was only surpassed by the spiritual bond that takes place when you draw close to God in nature, away from schedules and cell phones in an atmosphere of peace and relaxation. It was well worth the trip!

Come and Dine

By Chester Harris

Years ago the San Jose fellowship started a tradition of what we used to call the Widows Luncheon. Once a month these ladies and who ever else wanted to come would get together in one of the local restaurants for lunch. Well, that tradition lives on today but now everyone comes! On the third Thursday of each month our brethren meet at Home Town Buffet at 12:00 noon for lunch. The address is listed in the church bulletin. It is a time to share a meal together and fellowship with one another during the week. Everyone is welcome to come and join in this joyous occasion. The meal is not limited to just our church members.

Some of our brethren invite our seniors as their guests and others invite their friends and former members. We make room for everyone by pulling the tables together. Why not come and join in the fellowship and food? There is always room enough for you at our table.

IRS auditor to taxpayer: “No, I’m sorry but you can’t claim depreciation on your spouse.”

-Joyful Noiseletter, March, 2003
Youth Bible Study
By Michael Sherrod

Last time I wrote, I told you about how our children’s Bible Study is organized. Today I would like to tell about what we have actually studied in our class this year.

In December we studied the gift and the Giver. We studied scriptures that told us to be content with what we have and not being concerned about always getting more and more. We also talked about how God is more important than any possessions and besides that, He gives us everything we have. In return we should be givers.

In January, we learned how to tell your friends about Jesus. In February, we learned how to choose right from wrong. In the middle of February, we focused on trying to live truthfully. In March, our Bible Studies have been about prayer: How we should pray, what we should pray about, and how to accept the answer God gives us.

As you can see, we are learning a lot!

The Teen Scene
By Preeti Piplani

Spring Report
Teenagers are infamous for their ability to make noise and the San Jose Youth are no exception. But the noise produced by our local youth is in fact very different from what you would typically expect. The San Jose Youth are instead making a different type of noise—they are making a joyful noise to the Lord. With the leadership of Y.O.U. vice president Nathan Zebrowski, the youth have formed the San Jose Congregation’s first youth praise band.

The group began practicing in February and is preparing for its debut. The band currently has six members: Mike Dreelan, Ian and Ivan Paulino are featured on acoustic guitar, Ben Funsten as the lead vocalist, Abby Hulog on bass and Nathan Zebrowski on drums. The group practices weekly after church on Saturdays and is adding another weeknight practice time. With new songs added each week, the play list is constantly growing. Current songs being practiced include “Your Love Oh Lord,” “God of Wonders,” “Trading my Sorrows” and many others.

The praise band is also brainstorming ideas for an official band name. Be sure to look for their debut in the coming months. For more information please contact Nathan Zebrowski, Mike Dreelan or any of the other praise band members.

In addition to the praise band, some of the youth attended a one-day youth ministry seminar on March 8, 2003 called “The Core.” Youth Ministry Coordinator Bill Funsten as well as Aaron Burnsides, Mike Dreelan and Preeti Piplani attended the conference. The seminar, hosted by Youth Specialties, provided various tips and strategies for strengthening youth groups.

The San Jose teen scene is bursting with activity; make sure to join in on the fun by contacting any teen and finding out how to get involved.

Watsonville Church News
By Mary Webb

It seems like we just started a new year and we have already used up one quarter of 2003. Time just flies! However, in these three months our church, with the help of John Jester and Gary Clark, has been doing a lot of planning. Our vision of the future, our mission statement, and core values are becoming clearer and more concise. Focusing on Jesus Christ is, of course, our main goal. One thing we have settled is our new church name which is “Monterey Bay Christian Church...a congregation of the Worldwide Church of God.”

The members of our four cell groups are continuing to increase in Biblical knowledge. We recently had invigorating discussions on our church doctrines as published in the headquarters web page. We’ve also had four group meetings discussing “The Sacred Romance” facilitated by Mr. Dahlgren. He also enlightened us on subjects like “Grace and Truth” and “Power and Wisdom.” We have an eternity of learning to look forward to.

Since early this year Dillus Belfield has blessed us as a new worship leader. She did it so naturally we thought she was a “pro!” On Feb. 22nd, Rod Haywood, definitely a professional, gave us a rousing worship service.

Maria Ramirez had to have a tumor removed, but she is doing fine for which we thank our great Healer. Many other activities, too numerous to go into this brief report, keep us occupied.
Church Happenings

January 2003

Lord’s Supper Service
Larry Shamus conducted the Lord’s Supper on January 4. Cliff Higgins was the worship leader and Kathryn Sherrod accompanied on the piano.

Work Crew
Thanks to Janet Armstrong, Bill & Cheryl Becker, Rodger Bauer, Pastor Mel, Mike Dreelan, Richard Ely, Chester Harris, Michael McNally, Betty & Larry Shamus, Linda Smith and Elise Wilhoyt for helping the Community Church of God clean up, take out the old carpet, paint and put things back in place in the Fellowship Hall.

Christian Business Leaders
The Christian Business Leaders (CBL) met at Hobees in the Prune Yard on January 23. The guest speaker was John Marler who spoke on “Knowing God’s Will in the Workplace.” A discussion was facilitated by Richard Ely on ‘Faith at Work: Defining Success.” Then on January 25, CBLs coordinator, Mike McNally, gave a talk during church services on his call to start the program in our area a few years ago and the progression of the organization to date.

Guest Speaker
Dr. Freidoun Es-Haq from the Bethel Assyrian Church spoke to our fellowship on January 18 about the Moslem faith. He closed his talk with a piano solo of an Assyrian Christian composition.

February 2003

Sacred Romance Retreat
The Sacred Romance Bible study cell group held a mountain retreat the weekend of February 7-9. Details can be found in one of our featured newsletter articles.
Church Happenings - continued

Free Indeed
Mike Dreelan arranged for the Christian performing group, Free Indeed, to come to our church services and share their talents with us on February 15, praising and worshipping God.

Brotherly Love Social
Our quarterly social was held in the fellowship hall on February 22. The theme was Brotherly Love with the focus on our Area Shepherds. There was food, fun, fellowship, games, and even karaoke. Be sure to read more about it in one of our featured newsletter articles.

March 2003

Live Satellite Transmission
Our first live satellite transmission seminar took place on March 1. The subject was the Contagious Christian. Over 80 people attended the all day training that started at 8 a.m. and ended around 2:30 with a break for a pizza and salad lunch around 11:30.

Sharing the Gospel
On March 15, Janet Armstrong gave a slide presentation and talk about who St. Patrick really was and how he was instrumental in spreading Christianity to Ireland. One person really can make a difference.

Grab Bag Luncheon
Our first “Grab Bag Lunch” for 2003 was held on March 29 and it was a wonderful success. People sign up to be either a host or a guest at one of these luncheons and you don’t know whom you’ll be dining with. Surprise! It’s a great way to get to know each other.
On March 29, Hormoz Shariat, Pastor of the Iranian Christian Church that meets across the street from us was our guest speaker. He gave tremendous insight in dealing with the Moslem mind.

Roel James Pajela, son of Roel and Maria Pajela, was blessed at church in March.

Zack Baggerly, with the Marines in Iraq, sent this photo of himself with a camel rib he was served for dinner, he told them he’d rather have the fish.

Jessica Landeverde sang in Spanish and English for us at church.

Ivan & Ian Paulino tell us about SEP summer youth camp.

Franci Nicholson sings special music for us.

Alicia Carrillo tells us about her prayer ministry.

Did you miss these events?

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Zack Baggerly, with the Marines in Iraq, sent this photo of himself with a camel rib he was served for dinner, he told them he’d rather have the fish.

Bob & Mona Holloway brought a cake so we could share in celebrating their wedding anniversary in January. We found two other couples celebrating in January also, Chester & Mary Harris and Mike & Bonnie Ferranti.
The Way to Peace They Know Not!

By Mike Ferranti

God tells us in the Bible that the way to peace we know not. What does that mean to me? I believe it means that I have not discovered the way to peace. But I’m searching for it.

Where does peace begin? How can I start the process of peace? I remember the song lyrics, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” If peace is really to begin with me then I must start it on a one to one basis. Peace must begin with husband and wife, parent to children, and child to child. Then it must spread to others.

We must learn to tolerate others. Some have achieved this and many have not. We also must not force others to think the way we do in order to assume harmony with one another. People like what they like and don’t want others to force them to change the way they think or what they like or dislike. As the old saying goes, “A person convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.”

Satan may be the cause of intolerance. We don’t like anyone unless they look, act, and think the way we do. But God likes variety. He made all of us in various sizes, colors, and cultures. If we all did look alike and thought the same, what a boring world we would live in. In order to have a successful marriage, we must learn to accept and appreciate our mates. Eventually we will realize that the differences are not that significant, not a big deal, and as long as we don’t force our opinions on each other, everything is fine.

How can I try to achieve peace? I must tolerate any and all people. I must be kind, respectful and loving to all human kind, animals, and plant life. We live on God’s planet and are only guests. If we all behave in a manner that we use when visiting others in THEIR homes, that would be a good start. I must not be quick to disagree or let my likes or dislikes be known when my host is explaining why they like or dislike things.

Harmony is a good thing. When I started school, the areas we were graded on were, “does this child get along well with others.” That is the key we need to strike. Get along with others, love and respect them and most of all be gentle and kind to everyone, children too.

“Father, I don’t claim to know the way to peace. Help me to learn what I need to know to bring peace to those I meet. I hope this gets people to think about their ways and that it helps lead them to peace. I pray for peace to become the norm around the world. Thank you Father! Amen.”

Did You Know?

By Anthony Garside

Did you know that sometimes it may look like we are down and out but that may not be the case? This is illustrated in a true story related to us by my wife, Sandy.

“My sister Sharon and I used to walk to school every day in Itasca, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois. In the winter it would often snow until it came up to our waist—at 10 years old this was quite deep snow!! It was also very, very cold—cold enough to freeze the lakes around us so that we could safely skate on them.

One day in 1964 it snowed all day, and on the way home from school something unexpected happened to my 8 year-old sister and me. It was about half a mile from school to home, and we were only one street away from our house when we saw a large snow plough about the size of a lorry or truck approaching. These ploughs ran on caterpillar tracks at the front. They were painted bright orange and had enormous blades on either side of them to push away the snow.

The flurry of snow that these ploughs cleared from the roadways would make it difficult for the driver to see small objects ahead of him. As the plough approached we could clearly see and hear it, but the driver obviously didn’t see two small objects directly in front of him!

Then we got scared and we jumped to the right to get out of what we thought was the path of the plough. The plough ran right over my sister Sharon. I was frightened and horrified and knew she must be dead. The plough just kept going and didn’t stop or anything.

As I stood there grief stricken, all of a sudden Sharon popped up. Evidently there was a shallow ditch to the side of the road, which allowed her to sink deep enough to be protected from the plough’s vicious looking blades. She was shaken but unharmed.

So I often remember this story and am so grateful to God that what could have been a tragedy was just a childhood memory.”

And so it is with us many times in life. It may appear that we are down and out, covered with the snows of life but at the right time God raises us up. We are shaken, sobered, but very much alive. And if we truly appreciate God’s deliverance, we’re ready to do His will.
God made magnificent mothers who...

? laugh when they want to scream.
? sing when they want to cry.
? cry when they are happy.
? are delighted when they hear news of a new marriage or a birth.
? can heal pain or a broken heart with a hug and a kiss.
? love unconditionally.
? bring hope and joy when there is despair and sadness

-Author unknown

Overheard: An elderly man, recalling his boyhood days, telling a friend, “I can remember the first time my mother taught me religion. She said, ‘You’d better pray that jelly stain will come out of the carpet!’”
Subject:
Job Description

Position: Mom, Mama, Mother

Job Description: Long-term team players needed for challenging permanent work in an often-chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

Responsibilities: Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs $5. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

Possibility for Advancement and Promotion: Virtually none. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

Previous Experience: None required, unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

Wages and compensation: You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

Benefits: While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth and free hugs for life if you play your cards right.

When You Thought I Wasn’t Looking
(Written by a former child)

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing, and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don’t.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities even when you didn’t feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it’s all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I learned most of life’s lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn’t looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, “Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn’t looking.”

“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.” Proverbs 31:28

“No man is poor who has a godly mother.” Abraham Lincoln
Reflections of a New Grandfather

By Jim Roberts

“This baby sucks!”

This is the chief observation from one who has for the first time donned the responsibility of the title “grandfather.” It’s about all the things that my brand new granddaughter is teaching me.

Shannon Ellery Piazza was born November 4. Her birth to my daughter Rose and Son-In-Law Paul was a kind of re-birth for me. I cannot tell you in words what that little kid has done to me. I often heard it stated that becoming a grandparent was an experience unequalled by anything else, including becoming a parent. I now believe it. I cannot express how focused and preoccupied I have become. I cannot explain the glow and afterglow I feel. I can’t fathom the passion, the emotion that makes me feel like I am about to explode and implode at the same time, I simply have to ask myself a basic question. If I feel this way about my little special Shannon with my flawed and imperfect love, how can I not accept the fact that Abba Father with His perfect love, greatly exceeds for me what I feel for this baby? Secondly, I observe that this baby girl cannot do anything for herself except one. She cannot hold her own head up. She does not even recognize that the little hand flailing away before her is her own. She is totally helpless and dependent. The only thing she can do for herself is SUCK! She has been given the capacity to naturally latch on to momma’s breast and suck the nourishment she needs. For everything else, she is totally dependent, including having her mom place her in position to do the sucking.

So there it is. I realize more than ever the fathomless, unfailing and unconditional love the Father has for me, His child. I also realize more deeply how utterly dependent on Him I am for everything spiritually. I need Him as Father, and I need the Church as mother, to nourish me. I need the fellowship, worship and teaching of the Church to nourish and nurture me. All I can really do is SUCK! I need the spiritual Mother to feed me so I can grow from infancy to maturity. I hope little Shannon Ellery can help you as well to find a new awareness of the Father’s love and a new dependency upon Him.
A turquoise, rectangular piece of stone lies implanted into the soggy green grass. Just off of busy Mission Boulevard, it is positioned on the base of the Hayward hills in the Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery. The flower vase still appears new, yet well used as it is submerged a good foot into the ground. The name Henry C. Doerr, Jr. is marked in beautiful bronze lettering. Among the elegant writing are pictures – memories of someone very special and unique. There’s a Bible, implying not only a religious man, but also a man of many words – a speaker; a runner, finishing life’s race not only physically but spiritually as well; finally, a bridge, not only to cross on a daily basis but also to connect to the people he loved so dearly – his family. Just below the name is a scripture from II Timothy 4:7. It reads, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Henry Doerr exemplified every part of this scripture in his daily life. A man of many talents with a heart of gold, he went from rural Michigan to the city life of Pasadena and finally made a home for his family in the San Francisco Bay Area. Motivational speaker, athletic, and devoted family man alone might describe a great person, but together describe one remarkable man.

Talking to Henry, you could feel how emotional he was about his religious beliefs. Every word poured out of his soul like a rushing river in the spring when the ice has just melted from the mountains. Never ashamed to share his faith, he spoke with great power, energy, and stamina, especially when giving sermons. No one could make dull stories and mind-numbing history lessons seem as interesting as he could. He had the unparalleled ability to connect with every single person in the room and draw them into what he was feeling. His final sermon, given only a few days before his death, received countless words of praise from listeners of all different walks of life. It was magnificent to see his bright red cheeks – matching the curtains behind him – glowing while he swayed his arms and used his impeccable speaking voice to draw in the crowd.

Sharing his knowledge about Christianity with everyone who would listen in many ways became his life goal. He never needed his Bible like the one on his gravestone because everything he needed to know and share was already in his heart. Although, his life was filled with much more than just speaking and his awesome faith, he had many exciting tales and adventures to speak of. Constantly searching for new quests and challenges to conquer, he set a goal, or rather a bet with his youngest sister that he would reach all 50 states before she would. Even though he never completed that race, he did manage to reach most of the states and many foreign countries. Henry was also an accomplished runner. At one time he even qualified for the Boston marathon, but unfortunately he fractured his elbow in the gruesome training process. Always finding new, fun ways to incorporate time with his children, he trained for marathons on trails near his home, trying to keep up with his energetic daughters who challenged him by increasing the speed of their bikes. Amazingly, he continually kept up. He also kept up in the sports world, managing to pass along his love and excitement for the game of football onto his daughters. The boys on the block didn’t mind much since that meant they could count on three more players to butt heads with on Friday night football in the street. Henry never liked missing an opportunity to have some fun and jump right into all of the action life brought to his doorstep. Just like the man on his gravestone, he finished every race with his arms raised with great pride and with an enormous smile on his face.

And with that grand smile on his face, he made family his top priority. Like a bridge, he was the stability in his family. He gave a home to his runaway sister when she could not stand their father anymore. Like a bridge, he helped his daughters develop in this ever changing world. He had visions of one day owning his own company entitled “Doerr and Daughters” and his girls would be well off and provided for. Like a bridge, he set an example for every child he taught the Bible to in class, even the ones who made it distinctly clear that it was not their choice to be sitting there. Everywhere he went he built a bridge, whether for support or for connection, he was loved no matter what.

And so on this gravestone we celebrate the life of a man who has touched so many; a man that has made an imprint on more than just a cemetery lawn. Motivating through speech, showing athletic talent, and being truly devoted to his family are what describe one special person in my life; my father. Yes, this remarkable man was an important element of my life for 11 years. He brought great joy to my life as he continues to do every day. Even though he died almost 6 years ago, his spirit lives on in his wife and two daughters; and especially in my heart. Because he fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.
Doing My Homework

By Bonnie Ferranti

Have you ever listened to a wonderful sermon and just before it was over cringe when the speaker says, “I want you to do some homework?” I have and I am sorry to say more than once.

However, on February 15, 2003, our Pastor was speaking about the values, mission, vision, and goals of our local congregation and during the sermon he asked the ushers to pass around a box of puzzle pieces. His instructions to us were that each one of us was to take 4 puzzle pieces, one for ourselves and 3 to pass on to others letting them know that we are all important to God and a piece of His large puzzle (His plan). I cringed at first; however, I immediately came up with the names of three people to whom I wanted to give my puzzle pieces. I know God put their names in my mind, but my question to myself, the cringer, was how to pass the puzzle pieces on. God gave me the answer a few days later. This is what I did with my three puzzle pieces.

The first one I gave to my hairdresser. I walked into her shop, said hello, asked her to open her hand, placed the puzzle piece in her hand, closed and held her hand, and prayed for her. She was so appreciative and thankful that I prayed for her. She even put the puzzle piece at the corner of the wall mirror as a reminder that she is important to God. I handled the other two puzzle pieces differently. The people were from work and I didn’t feel comfortable giving them the puzzle pieces in person because one was my district superintendent/principal and the other one a co-worker. We are always busy at work, “religion” isn’t allowed, but I still wanted to do my “homework.” Again God helped me. I got nice blank note cards and stuck the puzzle pieces in them. I explained what the puzzle pieces meant, signed my name, and put a P.S. which read, “Below is my prayer for you.” I immediately started praying and writing it down at the same time. When finished, I sealed the envelopes, marked them personal, and put them in their boxes when I went to work.

Well, I didn’t expect the responses I received. My co-worker found me in the forum of our school. She gave me a hug, thanked me for my prayer, and said it was very inspirational for her. For my superintendent/principal it was just as special. She was talking with a parent in the office and I happened to be walking by. She stopped talking, called my name (and I stopped), came from around the counter, embraced me in front of everyone in the office, thanked me, and whispered in my ear, “It made me cry.” I whispered back that “that was not my intent but God put your name in my mind to do this.”

So the message here for me and perhaps for you is that the next time you are given “homework” from the pulpit, we may still cringe, BUT if it is GOD’S WILL that you do the homework, He will help you to do it.

A third-grade girl’s letter to God:

“Dear God, I like the Lord’s Prayer best of all. Did you have to write it a lot or did you get it right the first time? I have to write everything I ever write over again.”

We’re looking for a church that is Armenian, a-millennial, and low carb.”

from The Joyful Noiseletter
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Love

By Cassie Mason

I have two dragons.

My first dragon is Love. He has lived in my heart forever, even before I was born. Love is very old and very wise and because of this he knows what is wrong and what is right. When I was little, Love lived alone in my heart home. He was the only one that I listened to. He was big enough to fill my whole heart.

My second dragon is Hate. Hate moved into my heart when I stopped listening to Love. Hate is not as old as Love, and he is very confused. Hate does not like to be alone, but he dislikes Love even more. Hate is a bully, he is big and strong and makes everyone do everything his way. Hate thinks he is always right. When Hate moved into my heart home, he kicked Love out.

Hate gets angry very easily, and because he is a dragon he breathes fire when he is mad. Hate sits in my heart home all day breathing fire. Hate has made my heart his home. Hate has brunt down the walls to my home and broken the windows and kicked Love out.

Love is very nice. He sits on the doorstep to my heart home knocking, waiting for someone to let him in. Hate tells me that Love has gone away and that he will never come back. Hate tells me Love does not like me anymore. My home is burnt and broken, but I know Love still wants it.

Inside my heart, Hate breathes smoke. I cannot see anything at all. Hate is very scary so I hide under my bed and wait for him to leave, but he won’t. Hate knows where I am. He waits for me to come out, but I don’t.

My home is small now. I live under my bed. You see, Hate has been here for so long that I forget he is here at all. I forget why I am scared. I forget why I don’t come out from under my bed. I just stay there. I forget Love is waiting for me on the doorstep, I forget he is knocking. But Love did not forget me.

Hate is eating all the food in my heart home. He just keeps getting bigger. Last night he jumped on my bed and broke it, now I cannot sleep at all. I moved to the attic where I sit in the dark all day. Love used to have lots of friends but Hate will not let them come in anymore. I think he is afraid of them.

Hate let his friend Fear spend the night. They put up big black curtains and now the whole house is dark, just like the attic. Hate and Fear had a fire-breathing contest and now my roof is caving in. Hate likes Fear; he says he can stay.

Love is still sitting on the steps; he never leaves. Not even when it starts raining. Not even when Fear tries to scare him away. Not even when his old friends ask him to play. Love never moves. He stays by my heart home all night and day. I don’t even feel like this is my home anymore.

Love is patient. He is waiting for me. He told me that I have to open the door for him to come in. I don’t know if I can.

But Love is kind. He is not mad that I leave him on the steps rain or shine. Love does not envy. He is not mad that I will not kick Hate out of my heart home and let him back in.

Love does not boast. He knows he is better for me than Hate. But he says I have to figure that out by myself.

Love is not proud. He did not tell his friends that he was my favorite or that he owned my heart home.

Love is not rude. He will not come in without knocking. He will sit and wait until I am ready.

Love is not self-seeking. I do not have much of a home left, but Love will stay with me anyway. He does not care that I am not rich or famous. He wants nothing more than a place to live in my heart home.

Love is not easily angered. He does not get mad when I tell him that I cannot open my door. He simply smiles and tells me it’s okay.

Love keeps no records of wrongs. He has already forgotten about the time that I let a Hate take his place.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. When Hate broke the heater I was left freezing in the corner of the attic. I knew it was Hate’s fault. I knew Love would keep me warm.

Love did not come in but he sang to me all night.

Love always protects. When it started to rain and the dark clouds filled the sky, Love spread his wings and covered me.

Love always trusts. When I pushed him away, I told him I would not do it again. See how he came back?

Love always hopes. Hate turned into me one day, we looked just alike. He told Love that I did not need him. Love did not leave. He said someday I might.

One day I was so exhausted from Hate and Fear locking up my heart home to keep Love out that they fell asleep. When I looked out of my broken window I saw Love sitting on my doorstep humming. I was so tired because of Hate and Fear that I could barely move.

I told Love that I wanted him to come in, but he said I had to unlock my door. I snuck past Hate and Fear sleeping on my broken bed. When I got to my door I didn’t know how to unlock it. The locks were so big and locked so tight that I just sat down and cried. Love whispered under the door that all I needed was a key.

Hate and Fear had the key to my heart home. Love told me that Courage was just outside my door waiting for me. I walked into my room. Hate and Fear looked so big and scary I almost stopped, but I remembered Courage. He was waiting for me. I took a step closer to Hate and Fear. Courage’s voice got louder. Hate and Fear got smaller. I took another, and then another. By the time I was right next to my broken bed Hate and Fear were small enough to fit in the palm of my hand.

I picked Hate and Fear up and opened my door. Love was not there waiting. He was already inside. My home looked even worse after Hate and Fear left. Love helped me fix it. My walls are not burnt anymore. They are better, but they still smell like smoke. Love says that the smell will go away when I take the locks off my door.

Love brought Faith and Hope over one day and we took the locks off together. I gave Love the key to my heart home. I cannot protect it alone, but he says he can keep it safe for me.

Love always perseveres.
A Survey of Personal Intelligence

by Aimee McNally

In November 2002, Dr. Laura Gschwend spoke to Christian Business Leaders about Emotional Intelligence. In her presentation, she introduced Howard Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences. Gardner identified that all persons learn through the following seven intelligences:

- Verbal/Linguistic
- Logical/Mathematical
- Visual/Spatial
- Body/Kinesthetic
- Musical/Rhythmic
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal

If Christians in the workplace desire to rediscover business in Christ, the most important intelligences to examine and strengthen are Interpersonal and Intrapersonal. The following will explain why.

“Interpersonal intelligence is the most complex of all the intelligences, including cognitive skills such as: observation, verbal and nonverbal communication, team building, understanding conflict and using it as opportunity to grow, learning to trust, respect for diversity, listening, negotiating, compromising, and building on ideas. Also important in this intelligence are the less cognitive, but equally important, factors including: caring about others’ feelings, motivation, sympathy, empathy, and a desire to work as a group for the common good” (Bruce, 81).

It is no surprise, Jesus Christ had strong interpersonal intelligence. He comforted and encouraged the sick. He lovingly corrected and forgave the sinful. Out of His heart sprang rivers of caring and loving waters. He was a powerful team leader motivating and teaching the disciples with a servant heart.

To follow Christ’s example, set aside time to strengthen interpersonal intelligence. Here are some suggestions: join a small group open to sharing feelings and thoughts. Have more meaningful, personal one-on-one discussions with coworkers, while practicing listening and acceptance skills. Establish a prayer partner to share personal feelings and thoughts. Make journal entries of the times when practicing interpersonal intelligence was successful or a failure. (Some of the previous ideas were based on Bruce, 82-84.)

Intrapersonal intelligence is a person’s ability to truthfully examine the desires, feelings and capacities of the heart - “and to use such information effectively in regulating one’s life” (Gardner, 43).

Howard Gardner states in Intelligence Reframed, “Given today’s extreme fluidity of jobs, roles, and preferences, it is essential that people have an accurate, up-to-date, and flexible understanding of their own desires, needs, anxieties, and optimal ways of learning. People with particularly strong intrapersonal intelligence are prized in the business world because they can make optimal use of their talents, especially under rapidly changing conditions, and they know best how to mesh their talents with those of their coworkers. In contrast, those with inaccurate self-perceptions behave in nonproductive ways, personally or professionally, and are a burden to a company” (Gardner, 200).

Christ’s interpersonal intelligence was a reflection of His intrapersonal intelligence. His heart was pure and perfect first, which then enabled Him to reflect complex interpersonal intelligence. Here are a few suggestions to strengthen intrapersonal intelligence: It is critical to examine the heart. “Let a man examine himself” (I Cor 11:28). “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?” (II Cor 13:5).

“Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord” (Lam 3:40). Ask God to probe, examine, test and try the heart and mind (Ps. 17:3, 26:2). Make prayer and quiet meditation a priority, even during stressful, busy work days. Allow transition time from the outside into the work environment with a silent prayer and reflecting on a daily Scripture. Write, plan and visualize goals. (One of the previous ideas was based on Bruce, 82-84.)

In summary, interpersonal intelligence is strengthened through loving relationships with others. Intrapersonal intelligence is strengthened through a close relationship with Jesus Christ and God the Father. First, build a strong relationship with Christ, using the process of self-examination and prayer. After changing and repenting, as a result of self-examination, rivers of pure interpersonal intelligence will burst forth.

Resources: Intelligence Reframed by Howard Gardner. 7 Ways of Teaching the Bible to Adults: Using Our Multiple Intelligences to Build Faith, by Barbara Bruce.