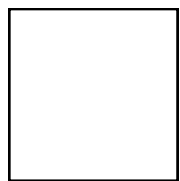


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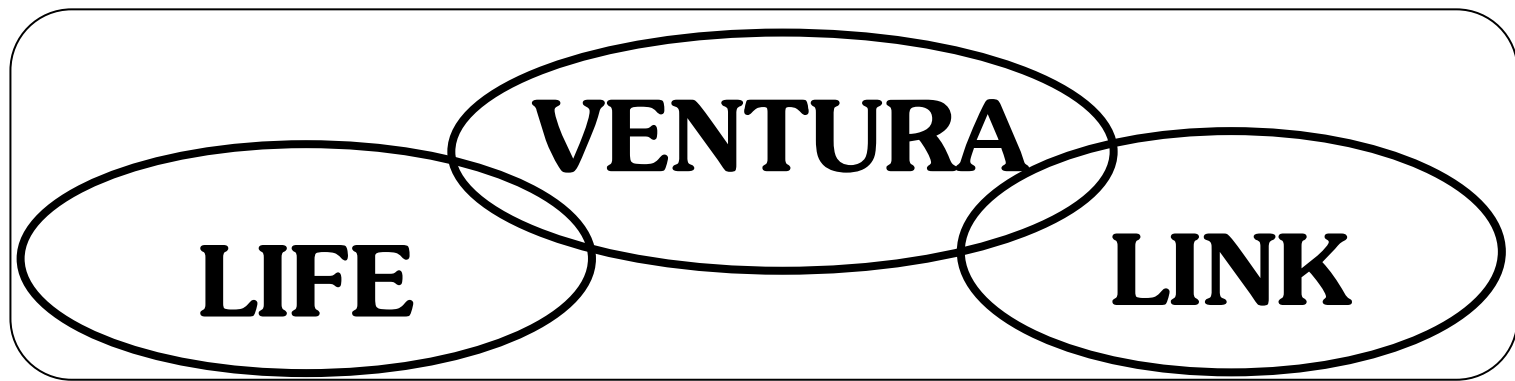


its me again Lord

by Eunice Stuhlhofer

Its me again lord
 needless to say my name.
 its me again Lord
 its me whose hairs You number
 its me whose days You number
 its me whose breath You lend
 Its me again Lord
 its me whose life You treasure
 its me whose life You redeemed
 its me whose life is priceless
 its me again Lord.
 its me again Lord
 Whose nature is Far
 its me whose heart You comfort
 its me whose life You forever changed
 its me whose forever in love with You
 its me again Lord.

<http://www.thechristianwoman.com/christian-poems>



Volume 16, Number 4

April 26, 2012

Calendar

May

- 1 - 4 Pepperdine Lectures
- 6 Steve Raines, AM
- 6 Worship in Song, PM
- 8 Leader Meeting
- 11 Senior Lunch, T.Oaks
- 13 Mother's Day
- 20 Keith Fowler, AM
- 20 .. Third Sunday Sing, Pk Av
- 22 Leader Meeting
- 25-28 Memorial Wknd

June

- 1 School out Moorpark
- 5 Leader Meeting
- 5 Election Day
- 8 School out Ox, NB Park
- 12 Ladies Devotional
- 13 School out Ventura
- 16 Family BBQ
- 17 Father's Day
- 18-20 VBS
- 19 Leader Meeting
- 20 Devo at Hobart Park

Birthdays

- 4/29 Brent Clements
- 4/30 Connel Ferguson
- 4/30 Asa Tabor
- 5/1 Debbie Lopez
- 5/8 Beatrice Layfield



Life Stream

Last Sunday we said goodbye to Zell and Marilyn Rawlins. After four decades of serving our Lord in Ventura, they have retired, and are moving to Canyon Lake, CA. They have given so much of themselves to this congregation that their value cannot be measured. As they have blessed us, they will bless others wherever they serve God.

There are several other long-serving members of our congregation who are no longer able to attend worship or other activities. Declining health has taken its toll in their advancing ages. They need our appreciation, our prayers and our visits. It's too easy for our fellow Christians to be "out of sight, out of mind." Let us give the gift of our time, to be with brothers and sisters whose fellowship opportunities are severely lacking. They will be overjoyed that we gave our time to them; and we will be thankful we did it.

Our congregation has long been blessed by having had a good balance of ages. We who are younger need to spend time with those who are older. We need to learn what they have given to this congregation, which has blessed us. We need to learn from their experiences in life as a whole, in relationships with others, and in their walk with God. We need to learn from their wisdom. We need to recognize and honor their persistence in their faith, their continuing service to God, and their love of God and others. They will not be with us forever; so we need to seize the moment to be with them now.

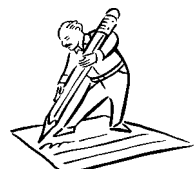
While it may be hard for some of us to imagine it, these Senior Saints were once Junior Saints – young people. When many of them were young adults, they began enthusiastically serving God. The existence of this congregation and its development are due in large part to their selfless and tireless work. Others came here after serving the Lord faithfully in other places. The stories are different, but the principles are the same.

Since the end of World War II, the pace of change in our country has grown continually faster. But the quality of faith of our older Christians provides a model to be imitated by those of us who are younger. While we have tried in recent years to publically honor many of these brothers and sisters in Christ, their individual stories are worth hearing and asking about. Our ideas about our Christian life will be challenged and enriched.

We must give our primary evangelistic efforts to reaching young people with the gospel of Christ. This is because people in their teens and twenties are the most open to listening to and giving their lives to Christ. But we must also realize that our older Christians have provided what the congregation has and enjoys today. We all need to eagerly hear, value and respect one another, whatever our ages and experiences.

Older Christians are never too old to lack purpose and value in God's kingdom. How we serve God changes throughout life. Whatever our age and condition, may we continue to find ways to joyfully serve God, to the blessing of many, and to God's glory.

Love, Dave



Guest Pen

A little something extra

Jim McGuiggan

Sammy Law and his wife Jean lived out in the sticks not far from Coleraine here in Northern Ireland. He had seen combat close up in Korea and if it hadn't been for some mates he would have got more than a bullet in his ankle. Jean was a hospitable soul and like so many other country women she could bake delicious bread. Smother it with butter as it came straight from the griddle or the hob and a king couldn't eat better. It was Sammy who took me fishing for the very first time in my life.

I spent the night with them talking (as usual) late into the night. I had barely shut my eyes when Sammy shook me awake to go fishing. It was 4.30 in the morning. I didn't know such an ungodly hour existed until that moment. It was bitter cold, wet, windy and dark as we headed to the river. As I shivered I wondered if I was right in the head but it was too late to debate the wisdom of the venture.

He put a worm on my hook, threw the line into the dark river and moved off into the shadows farther down. In the early morning quietness I could hear him humming to himself now and then and I could hear the swish of the line as he repeatedly cast it. He was loving it and I was miserable; and the worm on my line wasn't even trying.

If I ever knew I don't remember how long I stood there wishing that I were back in my bed or at least somewhere comfortable--then I felt it. A fish was nibbling on my worm and I felt it coming up through the line, into the rod, into my hands and from there down somewhere behind my bellybutton. Down there in the dark, beyond my vision, there was life tugging on my line. He ate up all my worm and then took off. The safest meal he ever had, no doubt. But he had made contact with me and that magic moment has stuck with me now for probably more than forty years. I reeled in the line just to make sure he had got away with it, hurried down to Sammy and had him put another worm on the hook and went back in search of more adventure.

I don't remember anything more about that trip but with startling clarity I can recall how I felt *before* that fish mugged me for my worm and how I felt *after* he made his hit. Out of the darkness, when I least expected it, when I might have been tempted to think there was nothing out there, a gentle tugging on my line told me I was in touch with life—and misery became excitement. For those who've fished all their lives and have caught about eleven and a half million, this story may be old hat but the experience was pure magic for me.

Now I know this doesn't rank as an "argument" (theological or philosophical). And I know it will make no sense to those who can't share faith in Christ with me but I think God watches us and knows that sometimes our poor little minds wander, our faith falters and the pressures of life weigh so heavily on us that we need *something more*. My sister Margaret put it like this and I know she's right. "Sometimes we're in special need of him. He knows this and he gives us 'a little something extra'."

He gives a little tug on our line to let us know that we're dealing with life when we're dealing with him—that we aren't just shivering alone in the dark. It might be a remarkable answer to prayer, an incredible "coincidence," a cheque in the post, a whispered apology that we were in crying need of or an experience so uplifting that we can't do anything but look up and say thank you.

And for you that are burdened long, with pain you haven't sought and who haven't yet experienced that "little something extra"—continue to be brave and strong and live without it. Trust him still. And maybe when the ultimate day arrives, you who were gallant enough to live without the tug will receive a little something extra for being so brave. I believe that and I like to believe it.

[Extracted by permission from Jim McGuiggan's book *Jesus, Hero of thy Soul*, published by Howard Publishing Company, West Monroe, Louisiana, 1998]

Pepperdine Lectures

The 2012 Pepperdine Bible Lectures begin Tuesday, May 1. The 69th Annual Lectures, "Living Between the Times, Lifted up by Hope" Romans 5-8, will take place daily at Pepperdine University May 1 - 4, 2012. Join as thousands of Christians from around the world gather to study and praise God!

End of School BBQ

Our Annual End of School Family BBQ is rapidly approaching. This year it is **June 16**. Don't miss out on this day of fun, food and fellowship! Now is the time to start practicing with your quartet for the contest and to find that winning dessert recipe!

Youth Devotionals

On Sunday, May 6th there will be a devotional at the home of Greg and Shannon Warwar after evening worship. George Magana will drive the church van for anyone that needs a ride. See Shannon for what to bring.

There will also be a youth devotional at Greg and Shannon's on Sunday, August 19th after evening worship.

Devos in the Park

The summer devotionals at Hobart Park are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, **June 20**
- Wednesday, **July 25**
- Wednesday, **August 22**

These devotionals are in place of Bible class at the building and start at 7 PM. You may bring your dinner and come a bit early if you like. Don't forget your Bible, a chair or blanket to sit on and a jacket.

Graduation Celebration

Sunday, June 10, 2012 after evening worship, there will be a High School Graduation Celebration in honor of Marshall Ewald and Georgina Magana. See Cindy or Gigi for more information.

Nursery Care/May

- 6..... Lee Chaffin
-Destiny Schwab
- 13.....Lindsay Darley
-Eric Oliver
- 20..... Donna Fowler
- Carly Vallier
- 27..... Heather Zell
- Briahna Plambeck



Ed Pierce, Peggy Riggins cousin, had surgery for breast cancer and everything went well. April 27th he will start chemo treatments for 3 months.

Colleen Dethridge recently had a heart attack and had two stents inserted.

Lew Clark continues recovery after suffering a stroke.

Vicki Sawyer recently had a spinal stimulator inserted in her back to help with the pain.

Continue to remember:

Jo Williams, Glenda Tillotson, Pete Fix's mother and father, Lisa Martinez and Patrick McDaniels, Agnes Cook, Leo and Virginia Bartley, Virginia Orr, Gigi Magana, Ed Hathway, Caroline Newport, and Caroline Burke.

Men to Serve/May

- Sound Booth**..... K.Fowler,C.Chennault
- Announc/prayer**.Brent Clements
- Security**.....Bruce Tabor
- A.M.**
- Song Leader Jim Oliver
- Closing Prayer..... Greg Warwar
- Scripture ReadingWill Fowler
- Communion.....Vern Alstot
- Cameron Keffer, Asa Tabor, Ryan Eberhardt, Gary Chennault, Jeff McLean, Parker Knouse, Eric Oliver, Marshall Ewald
- P.M.**
- Song..... Doug Fowler
- PrayerMike Alstot
- Communion.....Dick Jones