



PARKWOOD ECHOES

PARKWOOD CHURCH LIBRARY

Our Library is open! Hours are between Sabbath School and a quick 15-20 minutes after Church Service is dismissed.

These are a few book titles:

Spiritual Growth

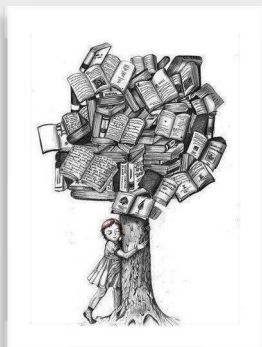
- A Biblical approach to Personal Suffering.
- Satan's Ditches and Dog-Faced Baboons.

The Healing Choice

- Finding God's grace in discouragement, Conflict, Mistreatment, Illness, Loss, Loniness, Failure, Inferioroty, Doubt and fear.

When Teen-agers Cry for Help!

- How to counsel effectively



From the Pastor

*"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
(1 Corinthians 15:57, NIV)*

"Fail!" The word has become a comical byword, a way to humorously label our own unsuccessful efforts, sometimes even adding the exaggeration "EPIC fail!" While the use of such phrases may be innocent and often in good fun, it points to the ease with which we accept and even expect our own failure. There is a prevalent sense that our shortcomings are the norm. Yes, we're all fallen beings. And yes, I am an advocate of cultivating a healthy sense of self-distrust and a humility that honestly recognizes our weaknesses. But as followers of Jesus, though fallen, we can look in faith to the One whose strength is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

The apostle Paul had no shortage of words in describing not just the moral depravity of humanity in general but also his own infirmities, speaking of himself as the "chief" of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). Yet this same man could give the loudest of thanks because he knew God to be the One who "gives the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57). Not just *a* victory or *some* victory, but **the** victory.

But exactly what victory can this chief of sinners rejoice in so much? In the context, the victory we're given is victory over death and the grave (1 Cor. 15:54-55), the most formidable of foes known to humanity since our exit from the Garden of Eden. **That** victory is *given* to us, *handed* to us, made available to us through Jesus. And if you and I can claim victory over death itself, then shouldn't we be even more quick to give God thanks for victory over this shortcoming or that struggle? Habits, addictions, character flaws often seem insurmountable, but the One who gives us **the** victory over death assures us that "in all these things we are more than conquerors" (Rom. 8:37).

Evangelism & Outreach Calendar

- Glow Outreach, – Every 2nd Sabbath @ 2-3pm
- Volunteer Appreciation Vespers, 6:30pm, May 8 – for all Parkwood volunteers and ministry leaders

Area-wide Evangelism

- Thanks to those who helped with the Overcoming Seminar from April 17-25! Nearly 200 attended each evening, and the Convocation Sabbath was a powerful experience.
- Prophecy Seminar, October 2-24 @ CVCA Gym (more details to come)

Central Valley Christian Academy

Scholarships: Go to cvcaonline.net to find more information about the school and also about scholarships and other financial assistance available. Apply before May 31 for best rates.

Want to host an exchange student?

May 5th at 6:00 pm, come to an information session at Central Valley Christian Academy. CVCA has partnered with GPhomestay, who will pay a **\$1100 monthly stipend** for each student you host along with a **\$300 referral bonus!** We will be serving snacks and there will be a prize giveaway at the conclusion of the event.

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May the assurance of these promises be practically lived out in our lives. Let us press on individually and also with the encouragement of godly fellowship to experience the freedom of victorious living that comes from knowing and trusting Jesus and His Word (cf. John 8:31-32, 36).

PATHFINDERS

BY PEGGY HERMAN

Pathfinders are working on their Cooking and Advanced Cooking Honors. They are also working on their progressive classwork for Investiture.

We took part in the Pathfinder Bike-a-thon held at Castle Air Base this past Sunday. Several church members came down to cheer on our pathfinders as well as the other clubs in the conference. It was a windy day, but the pathfinders rode hard. We are proud of them.

We have also made three different quilts for which we are selling raffle tickets. The drawing will be on May 16th at the Pathfinder Fair at CVCA. The drawing will be between 2:00 and 3:30pm, and you need not be present to win. We will have pictures of the quilts and probably have them on display at the church and then at the Fair. When the winning ticket is pulled the winner will be able to pick the quilt of their choice. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 12 tickets for \$10.00. The Parade will start at 10:00am, food booths will open following the parade and the judging of the drill teams. After lunch we will have the events and we would love to see many of you there to support the youth of this conference.

Below is a report of the miles ridden by our Pathfinders. Dante did not ride because he was on a school history tour to Washington. He will still be taking part in upcoming events, so if you would like to make a donation to his account since he was unable to ride please feel free to do so. Kelli has been ordered by the doctor to rest her shoulder for three weeks due to a muscle strain. So not only is she missing out on her swim team meets, but she was not supposed to ride. However, she did go out in the afternoon and rode about 10 laps to help one of our younger members to stay motivated.

Big Brian 38.4 miles - Lodi 54.4 miles
 Carlos 57.6 miles - Nicole 51.2 miles
 Kelli 16 miles - Little Brian 51.2 miles
 Tayiani 46.4 miles



WORD POWER!

Parkwood Christian Preschool

Focus on Vocabulary Word Power

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”
Psalms 119:105

Words rightly spoken can make a positive impression on one’s life. On the other hand, when unkind words are spoken at the wrong time they can break one’s spirit because once spoken they cannot be taken back.

Our Preschoolers speak and display lots of action words and one of their favorite memory verses is found in Psalms 119:11. They were excited to learn a new word and meaning for “stomach” “Bread basket.” We continue to learn and experience a variety of activities; matching numbers, counting by 2’s 5’s and 10’s learning same and different, modeling clay and making special Mother’s Day and Tea Party gifts.

Yours in Service for Christ

Ms. Margie, Ms. Irene, Ms. Mary, Ms. Salyna, and Ms. Eva



After 14 years at
Parkwood Christian Preschool

Miss Eva is finally graduating from Preschool

Join us as we celebrate and honor her
dedication to teaching

When: Sunday, May 31 2pm – 5pm

Where: Bellaman Hall
301 Claratina Ave.

RSVP online: <http://whoozin.com/D6R-QQH-YYQJ>

RSVP by phone: Nina Herman (209) 526-5846



Low - May 4th
Seth - May 5th
Sonia - May 9th
Jack C. - May 19th
Marc - May 20th



- May 5
Cinco de Mayo - (Teddy Bear Parade)
- May 7
Mother’s Day (Tea Party)
- May 11-15
Staff/Teacher - Appreciation
- May 13
Picture Day
- May 18 - 22
Parent Conference Week
- May 25
Memorial Day - **School Closed!**
- May 31
Ms Eva’s Retirement Party

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In April we were busy getting ready for a yard sale (scheduled for May 7 & 8). We have been able to pass along to needy families, 2 bedroom sets, couch and washer and dryer.



Better Health

FACTS WITH HOPE

CHOOSE to eat a BALANCED Diet

FACT: Many people turn to artificial sweeteners as a way of trimming carbs and calories from their diets. But a recent article in the Journal Nature indicates sugar substitutes may actually alter the function of bacteria in the human gut in a way that can increase risk for obesity, diabetes and other chronic disease.

HOPE: Cutting out sugar—artificial or otherwise—isn't hard when you adopt a diet packed with whole grains, fruits and vegetables, plant-based protein and good fats. A preponderance of research shows this type of meal plan contributes to weight loss, can help cure type-II diabetes, and prevents heart disease, high blood pressure and other lifestyles-related illnesses. While there are no shortcuts to health, the good news is found in helping yourself to nature's bounty.

For more resources on experiencing better health and a better life, go to: parkwood.adventistfaith.org/better-health

Parting Words

BY BROOKE LUTZ

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

What a promise for us to claim! Jesus does not and will not begin something only to leave it to fend for itself. Many times I have thought of this verse in the context of personal spiritual growth (which it is addressing). However, I believe it's speaking of the gospel work as well. God has started a special work here at Parkwood—we would be blind to not see that. He has grown our church family! Yes, in numbers and attendance, but most importantly in mission. Jesus is coming soon! We are living in the last days, a time of urgency to get the gospel message out to the world. God doesn't stop at 50%, but dare I ask, have we? My prayer is that we will link up with Jesus as He completes the work that He has begun. There is work to be done! May we not stop until we see our Lord coming in the clouds to take us home! Each and every one of you have played a huge role in challenging me to move forward in the cause of God, and I cannot say "thank you" enough. As I move on to new adventures, my prayer is that the work started here at Parkwood will continue until the second coming. Stay faithful family, our Savior is on His way!

THANK YOU BROOKE!

Your dedication
and devotion to
Jesus have been
an inspiration of
eternal value.

You will be missed!

