



# PARKWOOD ECHOES

## H.O.P.E

by Nina Herman

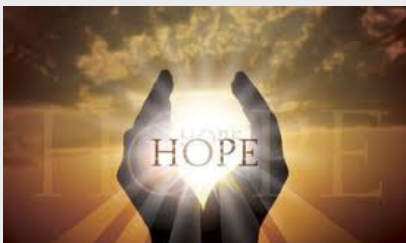
HOPE stands for House of Prayer Everywhere, and Parkwood's House of Prayer meets on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the youth chapel.

In early Autumn 2012 Frank found himself feeling left out. I'd been attending House of Prayer regularly for months and had made it pretty clear it was a commitment I'd be sticking to.

Wanting something to be a part of, Frank showed up (to my surprise) one Wednesday night. He intended to be a silent participant and hoped to blend into the background.

However, our group was going on a prayer walk. In anticipation of Revelation of Hope Seminar, our prayer band separated into clusters of prayer warriors.

We were to visit the different areas of the Church property and pray for the leaders and individuals that would minister and be ministered to. Frank found himself participating after all. He'll tell you how anxious he was when the groups split up and he was paired up with the LAST PERSON he thought he wanted to pray with!



## From the Pastor

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*  
(John 1:14, NKJV)

Words. Without words, all that we think, feel, decide, and desire would remain hidden or unclear to those around us. (Just try communicating with someone nearby without speaking.) Words are the simple but necessary vehicles for meaningful communication. Words make our inward thoughts outwardly understood. Every time we speak, our words are a small present that, once unwrapped, offer the recipient a glimpse of who we are.

Amazingly, in the opening chapter of his gospel, John introduces Jesus as “the Word.” Did you catch that? Jesus is God’s thought made audible. Furthermore, Jesus is God’s thought made *visible*, tangible, palpable. When Jesus became flesh, God became known and understood, both heard and seen.

This expensive errand is worthy of infinite reflection and adoration, not just during the holiday season but throughout all eternity. Jesus forsook the riches of heaven (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9), identified Himself with fallen humanity (cf. Heb. 4:15), and pitched His tent to literally dwell/reside/remain “among us” in order for us to behold God’s “glory...full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). The Word who became flesh is that Gift sent to be opened by us so we could receive a glimpse of who God is. That is the missionary heart of God.

What, then, is the missionary heart of God’s *people*? What will we do to follow in the footsteps of the Word who became flesh? What will we do this holiday season to be givers of the Gift that is of infinite value. As those who have received the Word, let us be a people who share the Word. Let us seek to identify ourselves with those around us, sympathize with their needs, and draw close enough to both show **and** tell of God’s glory.

*(cont'd from page 1)*

He learned HOW to pray that day, by simply praying that day. He prayed for our church, leaders of children's divisions, kitchen helpers and our pastor. He especially prayed for the guests that would attend the Revelation of Hope Seminar and asked God to change lives.

He didn't know it at the time, but Frank was praying for himself. He found a friend in that prayer-walk-partner and was introduced to Jesus, through that friend. He attended the Seminar in October and was re-baptized!

I don't think Frank has missed a House of Prayer meeting since that first night. He's a living testimony that prayer changes lives. Our marriage has been restored, our faith has been revived, and our commitment to living for Christ is becoming stronger. So pray. The life you save could be yours. If you don't know where to start, there's HOPE!

## Prayer Chain Relaunch

"...always laboring fervently for you in prayers..." (Colossians 4:12)

Do you know what Jesus lives for? He "always lives to make intercession" for His people (Heb. 7:25). In other words, His heart constantly beats with the impulse to pray for you and I. What a God we serve!

Here at Parkwood, we are committed to laboring fervently for one another in prayer just like Jesus. In the coming weeks, we would like to re-launch our Parkwood Prayer Chain, and we're **recruiting prayer warriors**.

If you are willing to 1) occasionally receive a phone call regarding an urgent prayer request, 2) genuinely pray for those prayer requests, and 3) forward that request to another prayer warrior, please **call the church office** to indicate your desire to be part of this vital ministry.

## OshKosh Bound (part 4)

As the 3 Mr. H's were anxious to make camp before dark, we were up and on the road by 5:00 am. They were kind enough to let the rest of us sleep in as they motored down the freeway. When we crossed the Mississippi River, we stopped at the welcome center and were able to walk down to the river itself to take pictures before getting on the road again.

We arrived in Oshkosh a little after 3pm. Before we entered the campground, Karen and Mike treated us to Pizza Hut for lunch where the Pathfinders consumed 10 large pizzas and then had the chance to visit the last flush toilets we would see for a week. We also decided to refuel the propane tanks before camping for the week, so thanks to our friends the Garmin's we located a place and filled the tanks.

When we went on to the campground, we found there were only a few campers there ahead of us. We located our headquarters, found where we were to set up, and began the task of preparing our home for the week. Just a little to do today. We needed just to be able to walk around and stretch our legs after six days on the road, and tomorrow we would have plenty of time to get organized. Some of the pathfinders and staff set out to explore our new surroundings and visit with some of the early arrivers.



We were very happy to welcome the arrival of Mrs. Gomez who had to fly in because she could not get the two weeks off from work. After dinner we had a very lively song service and worship and a chance to share our adventures with Mrs. Gomez before retiring for the evening.

Monday we were able to sleep in a little, but then got up to a hardy breakfast of French toast — a treat after a week of cereal and fruit, muffins and bagels. Then we finished setting up camp and awnings and then helped the conference to put up a shade for our general meetings. We did a little more exploring to locate showers, meeting places, and where we would need to go to teach the craft we were responsible for. Then in the afternoon we began to get acquainted with the art of pin trading, John and Mike were very helpful in giving us some pointers about making good trades.

Later in the afternoon the sky began to darken and the rain came in with a vengeance. We all huddled under the awnings to keep dry while dinner was being prepared, and after eating we turned in early to the sound of rain. We were praying for the rain to stop and a little warming as we were supposed to float the river on Tuesday. God has brought us safely this far and, and we know He will answer our prayers so that we can enjoy our river float.

## Evangelism & Outreach Calendar

- Nov. 29 – Cornucopia of Praise
- Dec 4 - Ladies in Luke (3521 Beachler Ct, Modesto -10am)
- Dec. 4, 11 – Spiritual Friends Training
- Dec. 7, 21 – Christmas Caroling & GLOW
- Dec. 20 – Parkwood Christmas Program
- Jan. 4 - Feb. 15 – Eight Weeks to Wellness
- Jan. 7-17 – Ten Days of Prayer
- Jan. 24 - Feb. 19 – GLOW-a-thon (more info coming!)
- Jan. 31 – Calvin Taylor Concert
- Feb. 20-Mar. 7 – Discover Prophecy Seminar

## Parkwood Christmas Program

We are beginning to prepare our Christmas Church worship for December 20<sup>th</sup>. We would like to have a choir for several of the songs for the program. So if you like to sing, come and join us Thursday evenings during the month of December, and we will be sure that everyone is familiar with the songs we will be singing. Check the church bulletin for times announced.

## Upcoming Events

- December 17, 10am – Christmas Party
- December 18, 6:30pm – Joy to the World Christmas Program
- December 25 – Merry Christmas
- December 25-26 – Preschool Closed

## Happy Birthdays

- December 3 – Aiden

## Introducing New Bible Workers

by Brooke Lutz

Coming to Parkwood January 7 through March 22, 2015 are two energized students from SOULS West. SOULS West is the Pacific Union Conference's school of evangelism. It is a 2-year training school where young people are equipped for soul-winning and in leadership.



Heidi Maekawa (left) and Sherrie Mae Olandag (right) will be joining our team here at Parkwood to grow in their ministry skills and partner with us in preparing for our Discover Prophecy seminar in February. Heidi is from San Jose and has been a friend of mine for 4 years. She has such a heart of gold and a love for people. Sherrie Mae is no stranger to door-to-door work and has lots of energy to encourage everyone in their walks with God. We are so excited to have these 2 girls join our team for 3 months and can't wait to see what God has in store.

## Parkwood Christian Preschool

### God's Greatest Gift

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16*

Although we give our love and other special gifts to our family and friends throughout the year; Christmas is the time and season to give those long awaited special gifts. However, we all know that the greatest and everlasting gifts comes from God our heavenly father. The greatest gift doesn't cost us anything. It's priceless and cannot be purchased at any of our favorite stores. Jesus paid it all on the cross and all we need is to believe it and accept it.

As we teach our preschoolers "Make the right choice." Paul says in (1 Corinthians 13:13) "The greatest of these is love." This great gift of Love from God that he imparts to his children is demonstrated here at Preschool, at home in our Church family and wherever God leads us. God's love to us and our love to each other can't be hung on a Christmas tree, you will not find it on the clearance rack at Walmart,



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JCPenny or any other department store, You cannot order it online and have it delivered the same day by UPS you can't buy, rent, loan or borrow it. It comes by special delivery from heaven signed by God and is spelled JESUS. Our preschoolers express their love in many different and special ways.

They may end their day with a special good bye. "I love you more than chocolate milk," I love you more than the Universe," I love you more than bananas" and the creativity goes on. They also demonstrate creativity in showing Christmas love. "I'll give my mommy a necklace and a robot. I like getting toys for Christmas," Alexander. "I will give my mommy a shining necklace and nice clothes," Jack C. "I'll buy my mommy a necklace," Obinna. "My mommy would like a race car," Aiden. "A horse for my mom," Reilly and Alisa. "I'll give my mom a car," Matilda.

The preschoolers will continue to use their God given gifts and talents to excel in mathematics skills by counting to one-hundred by ones, twos, fives and tens, learning fractions comparing dimensions, zoo-phonics, reading, christian values and many other concepts in readiness for the next level. Our gift of hospitality was shared with twenty parents, grandparents and family members at our Parent/child Thanksgiving lunch. Special thanks to everyone for helping out in this special occasion.

Yours in Service for Christ  
Ms. Margie, Ms. Irene, Ms. Mary,  
Ms. Salyna, Ms. Eva



## Quilting Class

by Peggy Herman

Our quilting class is picking up speed. This week we had 8 in attendance all working to prepare their material and plan their masterpiece. We meet on the first and third Monday evenings starting at 6:00pm. Anyone is welcome to join us.

We will help you plan a quilt of your own or you can help us prepare and tie quilts for the shelters or group homes. We have several quilt tops that need to be finished for that purpose.

If you are not skilled in the use of a machine we will be happy to help you to improve your skills and comfort with the machine. And if you have never tied a quilt we will help you there to. Come and join us for a relaxing evening out of the house.

## Pathfinder Updates

by Peggy Herman

October Activities: October was a busy month. Not only did we have pathfinder day and induction with the Adventurer club, but we also had Camporee near La Grange California. It was our good fortune to have our own pastor as the speaker for the weekend, and he and his wife also led out in the music and singing, which all pathfinders enjoy. Genna was also seen on stage (a barbeque pit) helping with the

singing. Two young people were baptized from the Waterford Club and one from the Chowchilla Club. The one from Chowchilla asked our pastor to do the honors, and so pastor Godfrey was able to enjoy the cool refreshing waters of the river, fortunately it was before the rain started.

We very much appreciated the loan of a motorhome by Chuck Flores for our pastor's family and a trailer from the Lemos Family, Waterford church, for our Central California staff. It is so wonderful to have the support of our church families on behalf of our youth.

The club did very well on events and received 100% on their inspection. If you want to know more about the weekend, talk to a pathfinder.

One of our pathfinders, Dante, also took part in the Halloween GLOW in the Dark outreach.

November Activities: Area 8 Pathfinders met for a physical fitness day at CVCA gymnasium on Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. We had participants from Ceres, Modesto Spanish, Parkwood, Sonora, Turlock and Waterford clubs. Over 100 pathfinders and staff met to complete their testing and take part in three other honors, letter boxing, poultry and worms. Not only did we have Worm races, but after a hearty lunch we participated in a pinewood derby race, in which the pathfinders raced cars that they had made and decorated. Although Parkwood didn't do to well in the race part,... they definitely had the best looking cars.