

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2 - APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Blessings of Coming to Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Blessingscont.	2
Wisdom cont.	2
Our Words	3
Weekly Bible Studies	3
More About VCK	4

SPECIAL POINTS **OF INTEREST:**

- Articles by the Pastors
- Article by Erica Reed
- Bible Studies



Eric Susberry Pastor

Pastor Caren and I have been American Express holders for many years and one of their company advertising slogans was "Membership has its Privileges".

I recently read some statistics on the lack of church attendance in the post covid pandemic. According to the Barna Church research, 20-30% of church attendees before

the pandemic will not be returning to weekly church services.

There were several reasons given for this anticipated trend. Here are just a few: One - tired of getting up and going through the steps of getting ready for church. Two - easier just watching church service online.

And lastly, which I consider the worst, the attitude that a person does not have to go to church to be a Christian.

Let me say this to that: While that is technically true, you do have to go to

Wisdom Calls

need it today.

Don't you need wisdom to deal with the situation you are confronted with? Do you need wisdom on the job, in your ministry, in your marriage, raising children or relationships with people in general? I am almost certain your answer is yes!

The Word of God in Proverbs 1:20-21 says, "Wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice, she cries out..." In other words she is anxious to give her wisdom to those who would receive it.

church to stay healthy, vibrant, and encouraged as a believer.

See, when you are a part of a church, there are certain things that members have access to that visitors do not.

The church is somewhat like a hospital. It is a place where people go who are depleted, broken, bruised, misunderstood, disappointed, and discouraged.

And the number one antidote to these ailments is encouragement.

~continued to page 2

I remember on many occasions hearing wisdom call out to me to do something specific, when I did it, it blessed me and when I didn't do it, I regretted it.

If we have ever needed anything, we need wisdom: to guide us safely through the challenges of our lives and to give us the grace to relate to people the way God would have us too.

~continued to page 2



Assistant Pastor

For several

weeks I have been teaching in the book of Proverbs. I believe the Holy Spirit directed me there.

Proverbs is called the book of wisdom and was written for the purpose of imparting wisdom to those who would receive it. If we have ever needed the wisdom of God's Word, we



"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the holy one is understanding"

> Proverbs 9:10 NKJV

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2 – APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER **The Blessings...cont.**

All people will experience a time when encouragement is so needed. When I think of encouragement I think of cheerleaders.

The job of a cheerleader is to let the team and the fans know that there is still hope, even when their team is behind.

Jesus never shielded away from telling His disciples about the fact that this world is filled with discouragements.

He also followed up with these words of encouragements, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". Did you know that a man in the early church named Joseph, who was nicknamed Barnabas; which means "son of encouragement"?

It was through the encouragement of Barnabas; Mark was given a second chance after abject failure.

The bible says in Hebrews 3:13 "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sins deceitfulness". Translation: without necessary regular and adequate encouragement from fellow church members, we will begin to think God is a liar or is unconcerned with our welfare.

In closing, we all get discouraged from time to time, and the number one place where people are that have a lot to give, is in the house of God. In the house of God, you will find many cheerleaders to cheer you on to victory!

See you at church soon!

Wisdom is defined as the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise (definition from Oxford Languages).

The Word of God in Proverbs declares that the fear of the Lord is the most basic ingredient in wisdom (Pro.1:7; 9:10; Job 28:28).

This fear means to acknowledge who God is, establish a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ, and to live in submissive obedience to God and His Word.

We were created to worship and have fellowship with Him in this way. God desires obedience and submission from the heart and greatly rewards true submission to Him and His Word.

Proverbs says, "Wisdom calls aloud outside."

Wisdom Calls...cont.

Wisdom does not only cry out, but some wisdom you have to search for, as you would buried treasure.

Solomon said, "If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Pro. 2:4-5).

He also said, For the Lord gives wisdom (James adds if you ask for it (Ja.1:5); from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly. (Pro. 2:6-7).

We can see by this God has made every provision for us to have wisdom. Once we have been given wisdom and knowledge we are to apply it to our daily lives.

A person can develop

discipline in life by applying God's words of insight. All wisdom is depended on the knowledge of God and submission to His will.

To know something but not to know God overturns the value of having knowledge in the first place. Secondly, to know something and not to apply the wisdom you know renders it null and void in your life.

I read this somewhere... "With age comes wisdom but sometimes age comes alone." Let that not be said about any of us, we should get wiser as we get older and teach our children and our children's children the way of wisdom!

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2- APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Importance of Our Words ~Erica Reed

Do you know how important your words are that come out of your mouth? Do you know how important it is to declare God's word out loud daily?

I read this excellent book *Pep Talk* by Terri Savelle Foy. She talks about the importance of our words and making positive declarations over our lives.

I have heard this before, but it was a great reminder and a motivation to take specific steps to make positive faith filled declarations over my life that line up with God's word.

Pastor Eric has taught on the importance of our words and how we shall have what we say. He often has us making positive faith declarations. Do you remember how he would have us say, "Increase! Inheritance! Wealth transfer! come into my life right now in Jesus name."?

And what happened? A woman we never met died and left our church \$300,000. Our words and faith helped make it a reality.

There are many scriptures in the bible that tell us of the importance of our words. To name two:

Proverbs 13:3, "Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life: he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin".

Proverbs 16:24, "Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health for the body".

I decided to try an experiment with my six-yearold daughter Hannah on the power of words. We bought three identical green plants. All three plants were given the same amount of water and placed in the same location. One plant we said positive words over, the second plant we said nothing to, and the third plant we said negative things to. In less than a week, we saw results.

The first plant we spoke positive words over began to produce beautiful white flowers and was green and healthy, the second plant we noticed no change, it looked just like when we first bought it and the third plant we spoke negative words over began to wilt and the stems looked weak and were breaking.

It was exciting for Hannah and I to see results in a short time and confirmed the power of our words.

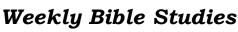
I have learned words can bring you closer or further away from your dreams, goals, healing, and financial freedom. Most importantly, the most powerful words you can speak are God's!



Young Adult Elevate Bible Study



Every Thursday at 7pm on Zoom*!



Children's Ministry Bible Study



Every Monday at 6pm on Zoom!



Teen's Ministry

Living Proof Bible Study

Every Sunday at

 7pm on Zoom*!
 6pm on Zoom!
 3pm on Google Meet!

 *Please contact the church for more information regarding all electronic meetings; answering service is 24/7.

Dear Mother Eunice, the election season is over, but America is still increasingly polarized, and not in a good way. I know that my ultimate home is in heaven, but I still want what is best for this country on earth. What is the solution?

One of the most unfortunate casualties of this division in America is the church. I am of the belief that there can be faithful believers in Jesus who are Republican and Democrat. But somewhere along the road, a satanic line was drawn in the sand that has created such turmoil that you can see the church turning on itself-for American politics. We have lost focus. If we love our country, we should all begin to pray that this crack in the foundation be repaired. When the Church is not unified, then of course the country won't be. Even Jesus was concerned about division. Before he went to the Cross, Jesus earnestly prayed that those who believe in Him would be one. There is much power in unity. You need only look at the story of the Tower of Babel for that. Now, imagine if the Church prayed for the Church, regardless of denomination or politics. And so, your answer is found in the often quoted and very familiar passage of scripture which says, if God's people will humble themselves and pray, and seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. then will He hear from heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land.

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Want to Know More About Our Church?



Weekly Intercessory Prayer Schedule:

> 1st and 3rd Tuesday Morning Prayer 10:00am - 11:00am

Every Tuesday Evening Prayer 6:30pm – 7:30pm Prayer Conference Call

Every Saturday 7:00am - 8:30am At Church While Maintaining Social Distancing Guidelines

> Fast Day Every Tuesday Fast until Noon

Sunday Bible School classes are temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We hope to see you once classes resume!



Victory in Christ Kingdom a place where you can walk in total success in all areas of your life!

Praise God we paid off our church in 2019 and now we can do some much needed repairs to our church building! Don't forget to finish your **Building Fund Pledge!**

Coming in 2021: Bookstore

*The Nursery is temporarily closed during Sunday & Midweek Services. The church is open with limited seating for each service.

page 4

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Service* at: 8:00 am at: 10:00 am

Midweek Service

Wednesday at 7pm