



February 2008
Volume 3 Issue 2

Norwood Christian Grapevine

I AM THE VINE YOU ARE THE BRANCHES... JOHN 15:5



Pastor's Promptings

A Problem of the Heart

It's February! How appropriate that my article is about the heart. But this article isn't about love or Valentines Day, or anything like that. It's about a medical problem with my own heart and how it correlates with a problem of the heart we all have.

No one was more surprised than I was to hear the test results. The doctor told me, "You have coronary artery disease." What an ominous sounding disease. We only have one heart and to find out that my heart has some kind of disease is pretty scary. It seems that over the years plaque has built up in the main artery of my heart creating a 50-70% blockage. Life giving blood that is supposed to flow through at 100% was limited to only 30% - 50% flow. Not a good way to live your life.

A second, more invasive test was set up one week later to find out just how bad things really were. The doctors expected that I would have to have a stent put into the artery to open it back up and allow the blood to flow normally again.

For one week people prayed for me and my diseased heart. Not only people in Norwood, Redvale and Nucla, but people all over the country were praying for me, Protestant and Catholic alike. They prayed that my health would be restored, that I would not need a stent. Some even prayed that when the doctors conducted the test they would find no blockage at all.

I have always been in good health. I've always been the one praying for others. It's a very humbling experience to know that people all over the country, people you don't even know, are praying for you. It is also very comforting and uplifting. I will see prayer from a different perspective from now on.

The day of the test finally arrived. I won't go into all the details of my experience leading up to the test, other than to say it took three nurses and nine attempts to finally get an IV in me. Not a good way to start things off. Then an emergency patient was flown in so my procedure was delayed a few hours. Chris and I were

blessed by the company of Rhonda Oliver, who happened to be in Grand Junction that week, and former members Rich and Marge Lair who now live in Grand Junction. They helped us pass the time while we waited for my "turn." Marge and I joked about how the last time we were at St. Mary's Hospital I was visiting her. Now the roles were reversed. "We are even. Now neither of us needs to come here again," I joked.

Finally the time came for the angiogram. The doctor was in and out in about 20 minutes. "Your arteries are fairly clear," he said. "You only have about 20-30% blockage, no need for a stent. You should be able to treat it with medication, diet and exercise."

Praise the Lord! What an awesome answer to prayer. My heart problem is treatable. It is going to take a major change in my life, diet, exercise, and some medication, but my heart problem can be dealt with.

This whole experience has

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"I am the Vine;
You are the
branches.

If a man remains in
Me and I in him, he
will bear much
fruit;

Apart from Me you
can do nothing."

John 15:5



The Heart of Worship from the NCC Praise Team

*Once far away, now I'm here to stay, close to Your heart. When I made mistakes, I thought You'd turn away, but now I know — You have redeemed me by grace — The distance has been erased
Now I'm free to worship You, Lord - with all of my soul and everything within me
I'm free to worship You here, casting out fear — Your love draws me near to worship You — Draw me close, draw me close, draw me close*

Once I believed I could never be — Close to Your heart. Now I know the truth, I belong to You — Yes I know —

You have redeemed me by grace, the distance has been erased

Jesus, I will not fear, I will not fear, draw me close, draw me close

Now I'm free to lift up my hands — I know who I am — I know I am free to worship,

I will not fear, I will not fear, draw me close, draw me close, draw me close.

(Israel Houghton - Integrity's Praise Music - 2007)

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 34:1

Worship the Lord with reverence (serve, fear) and rejoice with trembling. We serve an awesome God; One who gave His most precious gift to us.

Psalm 2:11

holy hands and lift up our voices in adoration to God.

We are free to worship God. We can worship Him at work, in our cars, at home; every minute of every day we can honor God - in our hearts, in our minds, in our actions toward others.

Worship is an act of reverence.

What an incredible price Jesus paid so that the distance between God and man could be erased; so that we could have access to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. What a small price for us to pay when we lift up

Let us be free in our worship to God as His love draws us closer to Him. Let us praise Him with the fruit of our lips.

Through Him (Jesus) then, let us continually offer up the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15



Thank you!

We wish to thank you for your participation in Operation Christmas Child 2007. We have collected and delivered your shoe box gifts to Grand Junction. They in turn have delivered the boxes to the processing center in Denver for distribution. A total of 982 gift boxes were collected from Montrose and the surrounding communities. A total of 6,985 were collected from the western slope. At this time we do not know where these boxes will be distributed but wherever that may be a child will be thrilled and happy to receive your gift. Thank you for your efforts in making this ministry a success and we encourage your participation again in

Operation Christmas Child. You have our sincere gratitude and thanks.

Sincerely,
Mary & Chuck Rehfeldt
OCC Volunteers

Sunday Evening Service=

will resume on Sunday, February 10th at 6 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Game Night=

Our next Game Night will be Friday, February 8th beginning at 7 p.m. Bring your favorite party snack and be ready to play games like Sequence, Hand & Foot, and other fun games.



Valentine's Road Trip=

Who's up for a little road trip with your honey to celebrate Valentine's Day? Join us on Saturday, February 16th for a trip to Farmington, NM to see a brand new Christian movie, Me & You, Us Forever. Five & Two Pictures presents this Dave Christiano film. It's a love story that took 30 years to tell. We'll leave Norwood at 7 a.m., get breakfast in Cortez, have lunch before the movie and head back home, stopping in Cortez for dinner. Sound crazy? Of course it is, buy hey, it's good to do something crazy with your honey once in awhile! Contact Ken or Chris for more details. For more info about the movie, check www.MeYouUsForever.com.

Behind the Doors by Davis M. Watson

This past Christmas season Mary and I went to San Jose, CA to watch our younger daughter close the door behind her by graduating from college and opening the doors to her future.

It is a two-day journey to California with many doors to open in between. Our stop for the night was at the doors of Whiskey Pete's, the last hotel and gambling resort in Nevada before entering the wilds of California.

What's behind Whiskey Pete's doors? To find the hotel reservation desk, you must walk through the maze of casino "gaming" machines (PC for slot machines or one arm bandits) all the while inhaling eye stinging, secondhand smoke (PC for smoke filtered and exhaled by someone's lungs). But, what about the people? Were they happy? They didn't look happy to me. They sat there mesmerized on stools with eyes glued to revolving fruit-laden wheels and bells tinkling in their ears. But their faces wore frowns while their lungs filtered first and secondhand smoke. You know it's

said, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." I hope so.

Upon arriving and settling in our daughter's two-room apartment, Mary and our daughters wanted to show dad a "good" time by taking me to the shopping mall.

What's behind the shopping mall doors? A maze of hallways and shops each offering something that will make your life a little happier and more meaningful (PC for personal gratification). But, what about the people? Were they happy? While my wife and daughters were busy buying underwear (PC and a Mary approved word for bras and panties) I had a lot of time to observe people. I set up my observation booth on a bench just outside the store and began to observe people. Some people were really in the Christmas Spirit and wore smiles on their faces; but some wore frowns and were only going through the motions hurrying from place to place laden down with packages, wishing they were done.

The Sunday before Christmas we were in San Francisco with our older daughter. Now, it's Dad's turn to show my wife and daughters a "good" time. We went to church.

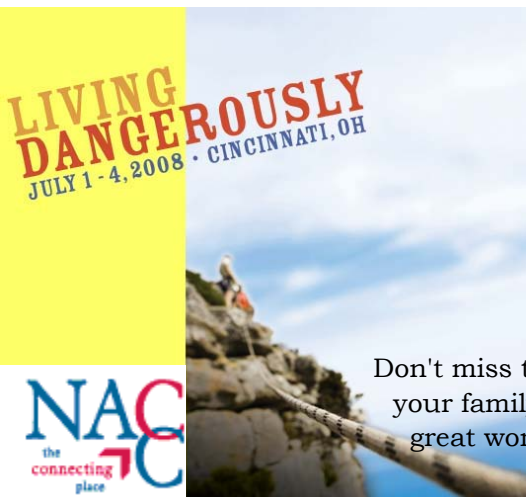
What's behind this church's doors? Not a maze and not a lot

of people. This church located in the midst of hundreds of thousands of people had fewer people in attendance than our church in Norwood. By my count there was about 20 people in attendance and a good portion were visitors. But, what about the people? Were they happy? Some were happy; some were distressed, but we all heard a message of hope.

A message of hope that Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the ever-living God, came to earth to testify to the truth. Even though we are all sinners and are all doomed for destruction we have hope in Him. As Peter, an apostle of Jesus, in response to the question, "Brothers, what shall we do?" said in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

No matter what door you enter you will not always find happiness, but you will always find joy if you place your hand in the hand of Jesus and allow Him to open the doors of your life.

The doors of Norwood Christian Church are always open for you to come and visit your friends and neighbors this Sunday and take away a little hope for the future.



Mark your calendar for this year's upcoming NACC Annual Convention

Don't miss this opportunity to get inspiration and tools to live dangerously. Bring your family because there are amazing programs for everyone. There are tons of great workshops, hundreds of exhibit booths, and fabulous connecting events.

www.NACCTheConnectingPlace.org



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10 AM ~ Bible Study
11 AM ~ Worship Service

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got me thinking about another heart problem that we all share in common. It's called spiritual heart disease. Spiritual heart disease is marked by a self-centered, "do it my way" lifestyle. The Christianese term for it is sin. Sin, or ignoring God's way of living and living life our own way, is like plaque in our arteries. Sin blocks the flow of God's blessing in our life. Like the plaque build up in our physical heart, a sin build up in our spiritual heart that goes untreated can lead to death - eternal separation from God.

But thankfully for all of us, spiritual heart disease is treatable. You see, the major damage of sin has already been repaired by our Lord, Jesus Christ. He died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin and when we turn our life over to Him, He gives us a new heart. He also frees us from the bondage of sin.

Being the self-centered, hardheaded people we are, even though Jesus has freed us from slavery to sin, we still manage to find our way back in it from time to time. But the Lord is standing by us to help us out of that darkness of sin and back into the light of His ways.

Yes, our spiritual heart disease is treatable, but it takes a major change in our life, a change involving diet, exercise, and some medication. First, we need a balanced diet of God's Word (the Bible) and prayer (talking with God) on a daily basis. Next we need to exercise our spiritual heart through faith and living life God's way. God is the one who created us, so He knows what is best for our life. It takes a lot of work to break our pride and to humble ourselves to do things His way, but I guarantee you that your life will be much better off for it.

Finally, reversing our spiritual heart disease is also going to take some strong medicine. God provides that to us in the

form of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works with our conscience to warn us when we are drifting into the territory of sin, those things that are unhealthy for us. The Holy Spirit is given to all believers of Christ to convict us of sin and of righteousness. But the Holy Spirit will not force us to take Him. Like any medicine, we must willingly take it to make it work. Likewise, we must be willing to heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit for Him to have any positive affect on our life.

How's your heart? Have you had a spiritual angiogram lately? Is your heart clogged with the plaque of sin? Jesus is the perfect heart surgeon. Turn your life over to Him and He will give you a clean heart.

Serving Christ and His Family,

Pastor Ken

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints, but let them not turn back to folly. Surely his Salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 85:6-9</p>					1	2
3 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am	4	5 Prayer Meeting 7-8 pm <i>Election Day</i> 	6	7 Praise Team 7:30 pm	8 Game Night 7 pm	9
10 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Evening Svc 6 pm <i>Davis Watson</i>	11 Elders & Board Mtg. 7 pm <i>Kathy Row</i>	12 Prayer Meeting 7-8 pm	13	14 Praise Team 7:30 pm <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15	16 Valentine's Road Trip <i>Bill Row</i>
17 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Evening Svc 6 pm <i>Annv. — Lee & Evelyn Barrett Jeremy Calvillo</i>	18 <i>Presidents Day</i> 	19 Prayer Meeting 7-8 pm	20	21 Praise Team 7:30 pm	22 <i>Vickie Barrett</i>	23
24 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Evening Svc 6 pm	25	26 Prayer Meeting 7-8 pm	27 <i>Nick Calvillo</i>	28 Praise Team 7:30 pm	29	



SUNDAY SERVANTS

2/03/08

Communion Prep: Davis Watson
Greeters: Dean & Stacy Boehler
Communion Servers: Howard & Betty Greager
Meditation: Dean Boehler
Nursery: Chris Lawrence

2/10/08

Communion Prep: Betty Greager
Greeters: John & Rhonda Oliver
Communion Servers: Dick Nelson & Bill Row
Meditation: Ernie Calvillo
Nursery: Heather Lawrence

2/17/08

Communion Prep: Grizz & Vickee Parker
Greeters: Grizz & Vickee Parker
Communion Servers: Grizz Parker
Meditation: Dean Boehler
Nursery: (open)

2/24/08

Communion Prep: John Oliver
Greeters: Dick & Kathy Nelson
Communion Servers: John & Sam Oliver
Meditation: Davis Watson
Nursery: Kathy Nelson

