



June 2008  
Volume 3 Issue 6

# Norwood Christian Grapevine

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



## *Pastor's Promptings*

### *Happy Anniversary!*

June 4<sup>th</sup> is the eight year anniversary of my ordination into the ministry. For eight years I have been preaching, teaching, and writing articles. As I look back at past sermons and newsletter articles it is easy to see the scope of the message God has given me to deliver for Him. While I think each sermon is new and each article I write is fresh, I have come to realize that sometimes I sound like a broken record. If I had to summarize all my messages over the years they would boil down to just three key points.

First and foremost never forget that life is not about you, or even your children. It's about glorifying and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. These children that we are raising are not our own. They are His. He has entrusted them to our care. He is counting on us to

raise them up for Him. Secondly, we need to get our priorities straight, to put first things first. There are too many meaningless things in this world that suck our time away and distract us from our true purpose. We are given only a limited amount of time. Use it wisely. Constantly evaluate how you use your time. Are you and your family spending too much time at work, sports activities, vegging in front of the TV, at youth groups, or other activities that keep you separated from the family? You as parents have been charged by God to raise up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. It's not the government's job and it's not the church's job. Don't spend time on eternally meaningless things that

interfere with you carrying out your God given responsibility.

And third, don't be so focused on your family that you forget your responsibility to reach your world for Christ. This builds on point number one, it is not about you and it is not about your family. It is about carrying out the Lord's will in your life. Yes, He wants you to raise Godly offspring. But for what purpose? Just so you and your family can spend eternity with Him? No. So that you and your family, as soldiers in His army, can kick down the gates of hell and free as many prisoners as you can from their prison of sin. He wants you to use your family to expand His family.

You will never know

*(Continued on page 4)*



"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*

### POWERFUL PRAISE PART II

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple... "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."*

*Isaiah 6:5-7*

Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord, in all His majesty, seated on the throne of heaven, and he was completely undone.

When we truly see God, our Creator, for who He is, we will be humbled and undone in His presence, crying out "Woe to me, I am ruined! I am a man of unclean lips..." The holiness and purity of our Lord exposes our sinfulness and imperfections. The amazing thing is, though, God doesn't leave it at that.

*Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand...with it he touched my mouth and said, 'See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.'*

God does not show us His beauty, purity and righteousness simply to expose our shortcomings and imperfections. His heart is for our redemption. He

always provides a way to purify us, allowing us to draw closer to him without our sin interfering in the relationship. In this situation, Isaiah was presented with a live coal to touch his "unclean lips" and redeem him, taking away his guilt before God.

God has done that for us in giving us His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. It was a much greater sacrifice than Isaiah witnessed in this passage, and He has done it to allow us to approach Him as His precious children, greatly loved and cherished by our Father. Praise the Lord for His perfect, faithful, undying love for us!



**Saturday, June 14, 5:00 pm**

On Saturday, June 14th the church will be hosting a Father's Day BBQ dinner and movie for all the men in the community. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. followed by a movie. Ladies, sign up to help out with this potluck dinner on the sign-up sheet in the coffee area at church. Guys, be sure to bring your appetite and plan on having a nice, relaxing evening. Everyone in the community is invited. Contact Mary Watson at 327-4221 for details.

### **JIM HOHNBERGER to Speak June 15th**

We are excited to have Jim Hohnberger coming to speak with us Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> during our 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Jim is the founder of Empowered Living Ministries ([EmpowerdLivingMinistries.org](http://EmpowerdLivingMinistries.org)) He is the author of numerous books including Escape to God, Empowered Living, Men of Power, and Parenting by the Spirit. Here is a brief summary of Jim and Sally Hohnberger's journey of faith.

"We were young and educated. We owned a successful business, a beautiful home, and expensive vehicles. We even had a great reputation in our church.

But underneath the veneer of success, our lives were busied, pushed, and stressed. Our marriage was troubled, our Christian experience was superficial, and we didn't really know our children.

"Convinced that pursuing the 'American Dream' was robbing us of an authentic walk with God, we sold everything and set off for the Montana wilderness in search of the 'Enoch experience'. What we found forever changed our lives."

Come hear Jim's exciting testimony as he teaches us how to go, "from religion to walking with God." Jim will be here Sunday Morning, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Norwood Christian Church.

## *Enough is Enough* by Davis M. Watson

Are you tired yet? We are just beginning this year's political season! I have heard enough! If I hear about Barack Obama's pastor one more time, I may commit the "biggest sin" of all — throwing away my TV set!

The truth is the father is the spiritual leader of the family. He is accountable for the family's spiritual health and growth. This holds true whether you are an elected official or a ditch digger. In God's eyes the father has no excuses. We are given an awesome responsibility to teach God's truth to our families.

The problem is the father has gone AWOL (Absent Without Leave). He may be at home but many are more interested in the football game than teaching his children God's truth.

One common excuse is, "I'll wait until they get old enough to decide on their own." Or "I don't want to force them to accept 'my' God." Is this how you approach teaching your kids? When they are playing in the street, do you say, "That car may hit you, but let's wait till you get older. Then you can decide to get out of the way." Or "I don't want to force you to play safe because it may inhibit your mental development."

When it comes to protecting

your child, you wouldn't think of using this "allow the child to decide" approach; however, you use this approach in your child's spiritual training. Fathers are responsible for both their child's physical and spiritual well being.

Last week my older daughter called me just to thank me for demonstrating a healthy marriage to her. Her job involves working with and for people who many times have been through a divorce and she said, "Dad, I see all these people having problems because they come from divorced parents and I just don't have these problems because you and Mom are together."

As a father, you are to teach God's truth in your home. The problem is many fathers do not know God's Word nor are they willing to spend the time to learn.

Before Mary and I got married, she said that she wanted to go to church. I said, "That's fine, but I will pick the church." I picked Norwood Christian Church because it was most similar to the one I grew up in.

Most people pick their church that same way and if the congregation is friendly and they are accepted they usually continue attending and may even become members. That's fine if

God's truth is being taught in the Bible Classes and from the pulpit.

But, you have no excuse if it is not. As a father it is your responsibility to know the Word of God and if it is not being taught correctly as prescribed in the Bible. It is the father's responsibility to bring it to the attention of church leaders. If they are not willing to change then the father must find a church who will teach the Word of God as found in the Bible.

If church leaders are not willing to be accountable, then they have no basis for being leaders in the church. On several occasions, I have told the class that I was teaching, "Check out everything you hear and if it is not found in the Bible, than it is your responsibility to bring it to our attention. We only want to teach what the Bible says."

If you are looking for a solid Bible Church, I encourage you to check us out. Our web site is: [www.NorwoodChristian.com](http://www.NorwoodChristian.com). Our Minister is Ken Lawrence and you can reach him at the church office at 327-0201. Our Elders are Dean and Ed Boehler and Davis Watson. We are committed to seeing fathers become spiritual leaders of your family.



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**10 AM ~ Bible Study**  
**11 AM ~ Worship Service**

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

**Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest awhile,**  
**Mark 6:31**

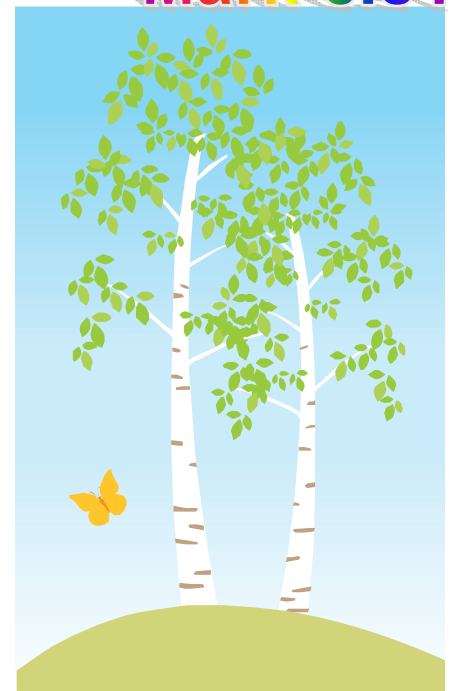
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the true impact you can have on this world, and the full extent of the joy the Lord has for you, until you and your family wholly and completely submit every area of your life to Him and to His service. It was the Lord Jesus who summarized all of God's commandments into these two. First, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength. Second, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

That is our job as Christian parents. That is the life purpose we need to impress on our children. Love God and love your neighbor. I don't know about you, but I'm going to keep on doing it and keep on preaching it until the Lord calls me home. So I sound like a broken record. Some songs are worth repeating. And hey, kids today don't even know what a record is anyway!

Serving Christ and His family,

*Pastor Ken*



# JUNE 2008

That my joy may be in you and that  
your joy may be complete.

John 15:11

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bible School 10 am Worship Svc 11 am	2	3 Prayer Meeting 7-8 p.m.	4	5 Praise Team 7:30 pm  <i>Victoria Haggard</i>	6	7  <i>Ted Earley</i>
8 Bible School 10 am Worship Svc 11 am	9 Elder & Board Meeting 7 pm	10 Prayer Meeting 7-8 p.m.	11	12 Praise Team 7:30 pm	13  <i>Ricky Klement</i>	14 Father's Day BBQ & Movie 5 pm
15 <i>Father's Day</i> Bible School 10 am Worship Svc 11 am <b>Jim Hohnberger</b> <b>Guest Speaker</b> <i>Ron Carlson</i>	16	17 Prayer Meeting 7-8 p.m.  <i>Zack Calvillo</i>	18  <i>Rich Benintendi</i> <i>Ruth Boehler</i>	19 Praise Team 7:30 pm	20	21
22 Bible School 10 am Worship Svc 11 am  <i>John &amp; Rebecca</i> <i>Williams—Annv.</i>	23  <i>Mandy Watson</i>	24 Prayer Meeting 7-8 p.m.	25	26 Praise Team 7:30 pm	27	28
29 Bible School 10 am Worship Svc 11 am	30					



## SUNDAY SERVANTS JUNE 2008

6/01/08

Communion Prep: Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Greeters: Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Communion Servers: Davis & Mary Watson  
Meditation: Ed Boehler  
Nursery: Kathy Nelson  
Sound Booth/Slides: Rhonda Oliver

6/08/08

Communion Prep: Davis Watson  
Greeters: Davis Watson  
Communion Servers: Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Meditation: Davis Watson  
Nursery: Cathy Carlson  
Sound Booth/Slides: Dean Boehler

6/15/08

Communion Prep: Grizz & Vickee Parker  
Greeters: Grizz & Vickee Parker  
Communion Servers: Ron Gabbett & Grizz Parker  
Meditation: Ken Lawrence  
Nursery: Sharon Newport  
Sound Booth/Slides: Heather Lawrence

6/22/08

Communion Prep: Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Greeters: \*\* open \*\*  
Communion Servers: Ernie & Zack Calvillo  
Meditation: Ed Boehler  
Nursery: Chris Lawrence  
Sound Booth/Slides: Rhonda Oliver

6/29/08

Communion Prep: \*\* open \*\*  
Greeters: Howard & Betty Greager  
Communion Servers: Howard & Betty Greager  
Meditation: Ernie Calvillo  
Nursery: Kathy Row  
Sound Booth/Slides: \*\* open \*\*

