



September 2008
Volume 3 Issue 9

Norwood Christian Grapevine

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



Pastor's Promptings

Miracles Do Happen!

What a crazy couple of weeks! What began on a Thursday as a diagnosis of a pulled muscle had four days later turned into a life threatening situation for our dear sister, Sharon Pike. The culprit was not a pulled or torn muscle, but a kidney stone that totally blocked the kidney. The kidneys act as a filter to clean the blood of impurities. If your kidneys do not remove these wastes and impurities, they would build up in the blood and damage your body.

That is exactly what happened to Sharon. The impurities that should have been removed from her body instead built up and spread throughout her body. The medical community calls it being "septic." In layman's terms it is a very deadly situation.

I visited with Sharon in Montrose hospital on Tuesday morning, one day after she had been admitted. She looked very sick and was having difficulty breathing, but at the time we still thought she

was just suffering from the effects of the kidney stone. We had no idea that inside her body a battle was being fought for her very life.

Chris and I left Sharon and Jerry around 11:30 a.m. and went to get some lunch and do some shopping. When we returned around 4 p.m. the doctor had just informed Jerry that Sharon was septic, that poison was spreading via her blood throughout her body affecting other organs. The doctor also informed Jerry, quite bluntly, that they did not expect Sharon to survive.

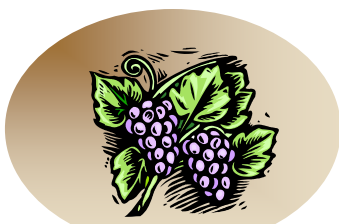
Immediately I called the church elders and asked them to get our prayer warriors into action. Sharon needed prayer immediately. We needed to ask the Lord for a miracle on Sharon's behalf. Dean and Davis called an urgent prayer meeting at the church and before long dozens of people from the church and the commu-

nity began a prayer vigil for Sharon. Those who could not make it to the church prayed from home. It was a unified effort of intercessory prayer.

In the meantime, I gathered the family and friends who were at the hospital and we, too, had a time of prayer for Sharon. In the course of the next hour or two we would witness God's miraculous hand at work.

The Montrose doctors agreed that Sharon would be better off at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction where they are better prepared to handle this type of situation. But, there were a few problems. First, Sharon needed to be stabilized for a flight to Grand Junction. This involved installing a main line into a vein near her collarbone. Her veins were collapsing and the doctors could not get the line in.

(Continued on page 2)



"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

(Continued from page 1)

Problem number two was the availability of a medical helicopter to transport Sharon to St. Mary's. Problem number three was that St. Mary's said they did not have a room available for Sharon if they could get her there.

Once the doctors informed us of these problems I reported back to the prayer warriors in Norwood that we needed the Lord to grant us these three specific things and we needed them immediately. Sharon's life was slipping away and she needed the Lord's intervention that very moment.

Those of us at the hospital also brought those specific three needs to the Lord, as did prayer groups around the state and all over the country. The Lord heard those unified, intercessory prayers and honored those requests.

Within 15 minutes of our prayers we were informed that a doctor was brought in who was able to get the line into Sharon's vein. Moments later St. Mary's hospital reported that they had a room and the helicopter was on its way. The three specific problems that stood in the way of Sharon's transport to Grand Junction had been taken care of in a matter of minutes after God's people united in prayer on behalf of our

dear sister.

Within an hour after that I stood with the family in the parking lot of Montrose hospital as we watched the helicopter take off whisking Sharon away to St. Mary's hospital. One battle had been won, but the war was not yet over.

For the next week in ICU at St. Mary's, Sharon's body continued to fight the internal infection that was wreaking havoc with her organs. Whenever anyone asked the doctors and nurses how Sharon was doing, they would only reply, "She is a very sick woman."

The prayer warriors back home in
(Continued on page 4)

Dinner and A Movie
Wednesday, September 3rd
at 6:00 p.m.

**LORD SAVE US FROM
YOUR FOLLOWERS**

*Why is the Gospel of Love
Dividing America?*
 By Dan Merchant

Don't miss this provocative documentary about the world's view of Christians and what we can do to better reach today's society with the love of Jesus. Potluck dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the movie starts at 6:30 p.m. *Note: Not appropriate content for children.*

NEW Sunday Morning Bible Study Series: Experiencing God

Experiencing God challenges Christians to experience the fullness of a life lived in fellowship with the living, personal God.

Experiencing God shows you how to deepen your own personal relationship with God and discover your special place in His kingdom.

We will begin this new class on Sunday morning, September 7th. We will begin at **9:30 a.m.** and class will run until 10:45 a.m.

NEW Wednesday Night Program: American Heritage Series

This enlightening video series from Wall Builders hosted by historian David Barton will help you discover the forgotten and astonishing story of our nation's

foundation. From Separation of Church and State, to the Civil Rights Movement, the heroism of our founding Fathers to the building of our nation's monuments, this series will inspire every American to reclaim the Godly, true story of our nation.



Join in and experience the untold story of our nation's history every Wednesday night beginning September 10th. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. with the study running from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Everyone is invited!

Welcome New Member!
We welcome Carmen Warfield to our church family. Carmen was baptized during our Sunday morning service on August 24th.

Welcome to the family, Carmen!

The Church: Family or Judge by Davis M. Watson

There are many preconceptions of the church. I perceive the church as a family. This was never more demonstrated this past month when we gathered as a family to pray for our sister in Christ, Sharon Pike. Sharon was near physical death and we called our church family together to pray for healing. This is what families do in the time of crisis, we pull together to support those in need.

But, this is not how the world sees the church. Many in the world see the church as judgmental hypocrites. This was never more demonstrated than this past month when we viewed the movie, "Lord, Save Us From Your Followers" by Dan Merchant. This movie explores the question, "Why is the Gospel of

Love dividing America?"

My answer to this question is, "The church has become the Judge." Over the past several years, we have seen the church come out against abortion, pre-marital sex, homosexuals, divorce and the list goes on and on. And at the same time, we see church members participating in the same activities we are condemning. It is no wonder why we are called, "hypocrites!"

As a church body, we have lost our focus. As Christians we are to, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:18. It does not say, "Go and judge all nations." As Christians, Paul says in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform any

longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

As we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, we become more like Christ. Jesus says in John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." If God didn't send His Son into the world to condemn it, what is the church doing by being

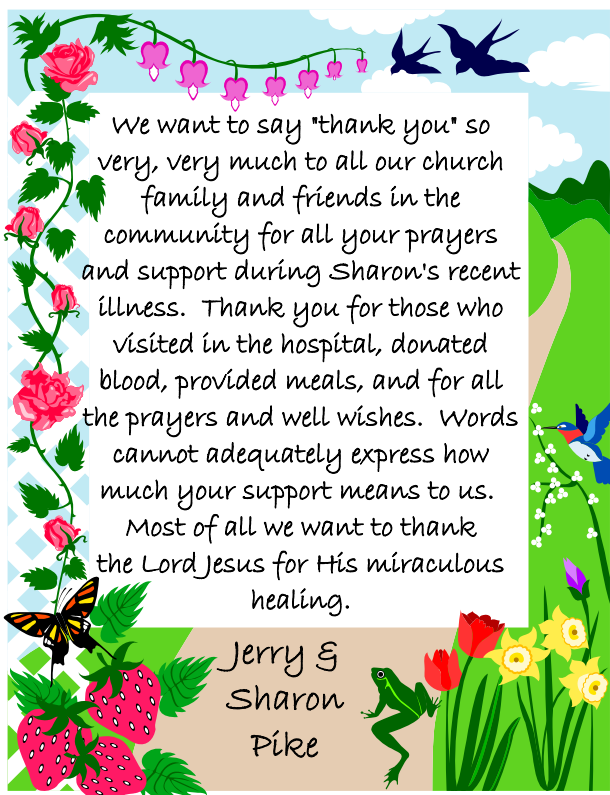
the 'Judge of the World'?

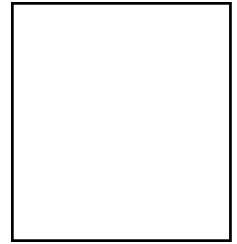
Jeremiah 31:33 says, "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." God has already poured out His Holy Spirit and all people know what is right and wrong. The question is not knowing what is right or wrong; the question is are we willing to do what is right?

As Christians, we are to become more like Christ. Christ loves each one of us – no matter what we have done or the sins we have committed. He loves you and me enough to pay our sin debt by dying on the Cross – a debt that must be paid, but a debt we can not pay for we have all sinned. God demands perfection as Jesus was perfect.

Jesus says in John 3:5, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born of the water and of the Spirit."

It is never too late to come to Jesus. Begin, this week by visiting our church family – yes, a family full of hypocrites, but a family being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.





Corner of Lincoln & Summit
P.O. Box 931
Norwood, CO 81423
Phone: (970) 327-0201
E-mail: Ken@NorwoodChristian.com
www.NorwoodChristian.com

10 AM ~ Bible Study
11 AM ~ Worship Service

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

(Continued from page 2)

Norwood continued to pray constantly on Sharon's behalf and I called with updates a couple times a day. After a few days Sharon began showing signs of improvement. The doctors and nurses, however, continued with the same reply. That seemed odd to us, especially after the ventilator was removed and Sharon began looking much better, at least to our untrained eyes.

After about a week in ICU Sharon had improved tremendously. She was able to sit up and eat solid foods again. The medical staff finally began talking positively about Sharon leaving ICU, which she did a few days later. As they left ICU to take Sharon to a regular room, a medical

staff member told Jerry that they were very surprised by the outcome. You see, like the doctors in Montrose, they had not expected Sharon to survive either. The type of infection she had usually ends in death.

I can offer only one reason for Sharon's survival. The Lord heard our prayers and in His infinite grace and mercy decided to allow Sharon to stay with us for a bit longer. Miracles are not just something we read about in the Bible. Miracles do still happen today! Yes, the medical staff at St. Mary's was terrific. But it was the Lord, partially through the medical staff and partially through His miraculous hand that kept Sharon alive.

On Monday, August 18th, just two weeks after taking Sharon to Mon-

trose hospital and thirteen days after being told that Sharon was not going to make it, Jerry brought Sharon home! What made this miraculous event even more special is that August 18th is also Jerry's birthday. He said it was the best birthday present he has ever received in his life.

Thank you to all the prayer warriors in the Norwood area who continued to pray for Sharon throughout this ordeal. Please keep her in your prayers as there are still some lingering effects that she is still recovering from.

Miracles do still happen for those who have faith and are willing to ask for them.

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken

September 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Dinner & Movie 6PM	4 Praise Team 7:30PM	5	6
<i>John Oliver</i>						
7 Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM	8	9	10 Dinner & Study 6PM	11 Praise Team 7:30PM	12	13
<i>Kate Davis</i>			<i>John & Rhonda Oliver—Annv.</i>			
14 Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM	15	16	17 Dinner & Study 6PM	18 Praise Team 7:30PM	19	20
			<i>Ron Gabbett</i>	<i>Ed Boehler</i>		
21 Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM	22	23	24 Dinner & Study 6 PM	25 Praise Team 7:30PM	26	27
<i>Ernie & Dori Calvillo—Annv.</i>		<i>Tom Gabarron</i>				
28 Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM	29	30				
<i>Cathy Carlson</i>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. <i>2 Timothy 2:11-12</i></p> </div>			



SUNDAY SERVANTS

9/07/08

Communion Prep: Ted & Fay Earley
Greeters: Ted & Fay Earley
Communion Servers: Ted & Fay Earley
Meditation: Dean Boehler
Nursery: Cathy Carlson
Sound Booth/Slides: Heather Lawrence

9/14/08

Communion Prep: Bill & Kathy Row
Greeters: Thomas Lawrence
Communion Servers: Dick Nelson & Bill Row
Meditation: Rich Benintendi
Nursery: Sharon Newport
Sound Booth/Slides: Rhonda Oliver

9/21/08

Communion Prep: Ernie & Zack Calvillo
Greeters: Ernie & Zack Calvillo
Communion Servers: Ernie & Zack Calvillo
Meditation: Ken Lawrence
Nursery: Chris Lawrence
Sound Booth/Slides: Rhonda Oliver

9/28/08

Communion Prep: Davis & Mary Watson
Greeters: Davis & Mary Watson
Communion Servers: Howard & Betty Greager
Meditation: Ernie Calvillo
Nursery: Kathy Row
Sound Booth/Slides: Rhonda Oliver