

# Norwood Christian Grapevine

*I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5*

## *Pastor's Promptings...*

### **FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE**

On Sunday a group from Norwood Christian Church went to Montrose to watch the movie *Fireproof* starring Kirk Cameron. It is an excellent movie, a must see for all married couples regardless of how long you have been married or how good (or bad) your relationship is. Several key points are made in the movie that can help every marriage. I'll touch on a couple of them here.

The first point has to do with the word "fireproof." When something is fireproof that does not mean that a fire won't come. It means when a fire does come the item can survive it. We strive to make our marriage fireproof so when the fires come – financial struggles, illness, bitterness, addictions – the marriage is strong enough to withstand it and not burn to the ground.

Is your marriage fireproof or is it flammable? Here are some signs of a flammable marriage:

- Either party cares more about themselves than their spouse.
- Either party sees winning an argument as more important than their spouse's feelings.
- Arguments over little things escalate into a laundry list of past wrongs done by the other party with each one trying to outdo the other.
- Either party retains their own identity after marriage (signs that the two are not one flesh). Examples: separate bank

accounts, referring to paychecks as "my money" and "your money", wife keeps her last name or hyphenates her old name with his, cars or homes in separate names, secrecy over financial affairs, separate P.O. boxes, etc.

- Either party finds fulfillment in "stuff" rather than being content and fulfilled in the relationship with their spouse. When you see your spouse as a hindrance or obstacle keeping you from getting what you want: money, a boat, truck, clothes, furniture, or whatever "stuff" you think will make you happy.
- Either party does not have a true, loving relationship with Jesus.

What does it take to make a marriage fireproof? That is the next point.



The second and most important point I got out of the movie is that in order to make a marriage fireproof it must be built on the right foundation and the right attitude. Marriage must be built on a foundation of love, not lust, not emotions, not physical attraction, and not sex. Marriage must be built on a foundation of love. Now that may seem obvious, but bear with me.

The love I am talking about has nothing to do with the couple. The foundation of a fireproof marriage is not built on love between a man and a woman. The foundation of a fireproof marriage begins with having a love relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. The Bible tells

us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God is the source of all love. Jesus is the manifestation of God's love to us. Jesus is God's love gift to us.

We cannot truly love someone else unless we are tapped into the source of true love, God, through His Son, Jesus. Marriage is modeled after God. God is triune, that means there are three "persons" in the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three separate, yet all three one.

Marriage is meant to be triune as well. There are three "persons" involved in marriage. Most people, especially non-Christians, view marriage as involving only two people, a man and a woman. But true, godly marriage involves

three: a man and a woman united in a covenant with God. A godly marriage is built on the man's and woman's mutual love relationship with God. It is the inclusion of God in the marriage that makes the man and woman one flesh. It is the power of God's Holy Spirit that makes the marriage fireproof.

Think of the Holy Spirit as the "Super Glue" that holds a marriage together. Jesus, speaking about marriage in Matthew 19:4-6 said, "...Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?'" So then, they are no longer two but one flesh.

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Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

It is God who joins a man and a woman together in marriage. Love is the foundation upon which a fireproof marriage must be built, but it is not the love between the man and woman, it is the love that each of them has for God. You cannot give what you do not have. If you do not have true love in your life, you cannot give your spouse true love. True love is not found in the world. True love only comes from God.

Once you have experienced the love of God in your life, then and only then, can you love your spouse as yourself, and put their needs above your own needs and wants. That is the attitude of a fireproof marriage, loving your spouse as yourself, because you are one flesh, and looking out for their best interest ahead of yourself.

To make your marriage fireproof, you must have a relationship with God that is real and personal. That relationship only comes through giving your life over to the Lord, Jesus Christ. A marriage built on anything less is going to have a difficult time ahead.

To learn more about God and His love for you come meet Him this Sunday at Norwood Christian Church. Our worship service begins at 11 a.m.

Serving Christ and His loving family,

*Pastor Ken*

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## FAVOR VS. COINCIDENCE

By Davis Watson

If you ever ask Ernie Calvillo how he is doing, he will say, “I am blessed and highly favored.”

I must say for the past three weeks the Watson’s have been “blessed and highly favored”. It all started about a year ago when our younger daughter, Ashley, received a scholarship to be an exchange student for the 4H program through the CSU Extension Service. Out of seven applicants, Ashley was one of two selected to be sent to a foreign country for six months to learn about their culture. Upon returning to Colorado she will spend the next four months going throughout Colorado putting on programs about her experiences. After her first three months she would have a three week break for independent travel. This is where I and the Watson family enter the story.

Mary and I met up with our older daughter, Mandy, in New York and flew to Frankfurt, Germany to meet Ashley. From Frankfurt we flew to Roma, Italy. After four days we took the train to Florence, Italy, spent three days in Florence and then took the train to Paris. After four days in Paris we returned to Frankfurt and then back to America.

This is a trip very few people have the opportunity to take, but this is not the whole story. We were not only blessed with this trip; we were also highly favored. Let me explain some of the ways God showed His favor on us.

We got a good flight out of Grand Junction saving us a trip to Denver. Upon arriving in New York someone asked us if he could help us. He directed us to our next gate which was directly across from the gate Mandy was arriving at from San Francisco. Even before we left, we purchased our train tickets but we only checked them the night before we were to leave. I noticed the ticket from Florence to Milano was missing. I emailed the ticket agent but of course it was on a three-day

weekend and I got no help from them.

Mary had a dream that night about the tickets. She got up the next morning asking to see the tickets again. I told her that I checked and re-checked them, but she looked again and found them.

In Roma, our hotel was near the airport which required us to take a bus and the Metro to see the sites. The first trip on the Metro subway someone tried to pick-pocket my billfold. I felt a warm hand in my pocket. I checked my pocket and got after the “little old” lady who had just “dropped” my billfold on the floor.

Using the bus/Metro worked fine on Friday, but on the weekend there was a different schedule which we didn’t know about. While standing out on the highway on Sunday waiting for the bus, someone from the hotel offered to take us to the Metro thus keeping us from missing our tour.

There are many more stories about the favor God has shown us, but this one is the best.

On our last day in Paris, we were to take the Metro to the train station we arrived at. While on the Metro, I mentioned to Ashley that I had a dream about a different train station. She asked me to see the tickets. She determined that the station we were headed for was wrong so in the midst of our trip we changed subway trains and arrived at the correct station in plenty of time to catch our train to Frankfurt, Germany.

Many might think God’s favor is just a coincidence or it’s just “good luck” or it’s “preparation meeting



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opportunities". As Christians, we know God is actively engaged in our lives and wants a close intimate relationship with us.

This doesn't mean as Christians we will never have something bad happen to us, but it does mean that God will be with us to help us through our daily struggles.

Are you struggling? Begin your trip of life by attending church this Sunday.



## HARVEST FESTIVAL APPLE CIDER DAY!

Our annual Apple Cider Day is Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> right after church at Joyce Hodges' house. Bring some apples if you've got them and come have a great time of fellowship, enjoy lunch (hot dogs and hamburgers provided), press apples and make fresh apple cider. Sign up at church to bring a dessert, salad or side dish.

## NEW MEMBER

Carmen Warfield  
(by baptism)

Welcome to the family, Carmen!

## THE AMERICAN HERITAGE SERIES

Join us every Wednesday night for the American Heritage Series. This video series from WallBuilders helps us discover the forgotten and astonishing story of our Nation's foundation.

Here is the schedule of lessons:

10/8/2008 *Church, State and the Real 1st Amendment*

10/15/2008 *Influence of the Bible in America and When Religion was culture*

10/22/2008 *How Pastors Shaped our Independence*

10/29/2008 *The Assault on Judeo Christian Values and the Duty of a Free Citizen*

11/5/2008 *Faith in our early courts and Myths of the Judiciary*

11/12/2008 *Four Centuries of American Education*

11/19/2008 *Evidence of America's Spiritual Heritage (parts 1 & 2)*

11/26/2008 *Evidence of America's Spiritual Heritage (part 3) and Great Black Patriots*

12/3/2008 *From Bondage to the Halls of Congress and The Civil Rights Movement*

The Wednesday meetings begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. The study begins at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

October 5<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation

Betty Greager

Greeters

Carmen Warfield/Jim Newport

Communion Servers

Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Mediation

Davis Watson

Nursery

Chris Lawrence

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence

October 12<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Servers

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Mediation

Dean Boehler

Nursery

Mary Watson

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence

October 19<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation

Davis Watson

Greeters

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Servers

Davis & Mary Watson

Communion Mediation

Ernie Calvillo

Nursery

Kathy Nelson

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence

October 26<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation

John Oliver

Greeters

John & Rhonda Oliver

Communion Servers

Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Mediation

Ken Lawrence

Nursery

Cathy Carlson

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence



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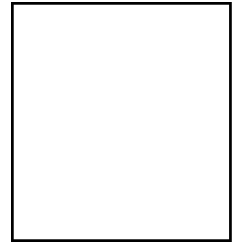
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**9:30 AM ~ Bible Study**

**11 AM ~ Worship Service**



# October 2008

*“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and will show myself to him.” John 14:21*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> Dinner/Study 6PM  <i>Howard &amp; Betty Greager—Annv. Larry Miller</i>	<b>2</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Dinner/Study 6PM  <i>Davis &amp; Mary Watson—Annv.</i>	<b>9</b> Praise Team 7:30PM  <i>Jay &amp; Jacqueline Berg—Annv.</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM	<b>13</b> Elders & Board Mtg. 7PM  <i>Columbus Day</i>	<b>14</b>  <i>Craig Greager</i>	<b>15</b> Dinner/Study 6PM	<b>16</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM <b>Apple Pressing</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Dinner/Study 6PM  <i>Ed &amp; Ruth Boehler—Annv.</i>	<b>23</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Bible Study 9:30AM Worship 11AM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Dinner/Study 6PM	<b>30</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>31</b>	