

Norwood Christian Grapevine

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

Pastor's Promptings...

TRUE LOVE THAT LASTS

On October 1st Howard and Betty Greager will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. What a remarkable milestone. Sixty years of marriage! In a society that tends to give up easily on relationships, Howard and Betty are a shining example of love that lasts a lifetime.

It has not been an easy sixty years. They have had their ups and downs, just like everyone else. So how have they reached this milestone? Well, sixty years ago they stood before the Lord, their family and friends and made their wedding vows. They made those vows to one another and to the Lord, and then they made the conscious decision to stand by their vows no matter what.

The vows they made went something like this, "I take you to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish 'till death do us part." Most of us who are married made similar vows.

These vows are easy to say but as many of you have discovered they are easier said than done. These vows mean that each person in the relationship will give 100% to the marriage

knowing that this marriage is for life. A big mistake many make is thinking marriage is a 50/50 proposition. We think, "I'll do my 50% as long as you do your 50%." But that's not what our vows say. Our vows say, "I'm going to give you my all, regardless of whether you keep your vow or not. If you blow it I'm going to hold on (to have and to hold) and be patient with you and help you get your act together."



Too many married couples focus on the "have" part of the vow and forget about the "hold" part. We think, "As long as I have what I expected out of this marriage I'll be here with you, but if I'm not getting what I want or expected, I'm out of here."

That attitude won't get you to your six year anniversary let alone your 60th. As married couples we need to remember the "hold" part of our vow. The "hold" part says, "Regardless of what happens to us we will hold on and work it out. Divorce is not an option. There may be times when we don't like each other very much but we are committed to always hold on to our love for one another."

That's what Howard and Betty have done for sixty years. They have held on to one another and their marriage for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. They made a conscious decision to love and to cherish each other 'till death do they part.

Where does a love and commitment like that come from? It comes from the Lord. You see, that's exactly how the Lord feels about us. His love is unending. He loves us in spite of ourselves. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Hebrews 13:5b says, "For He Himself has said, *I will never leave you nor forsake you.*"

Have you experienced that kind of love in your life? The Lord is here waiting for you to receive it. He is patiently waiting for you to realize that you will never get your act together without Him. He loves you and will take you just as you are and together He will help you get it together as you experience His unending love in and through your life.

You may never get to celebrate your 60th wedding anniversary but there is one thing we all can celebrate: a marriage with the Lord Jesus Christ. This marriage does not end when death we do

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part, this is the only marriage that will last for eternity.

So what are you waiting for? Why not come experience Jesus' unending love beginning this Sunday at Norwood Christian Church. We worship our Lord as the bride of Christ (His church) every Sunday at 11 a.m. If you are really bold you can even join us for Bible Study at 10 a.m. Come experience true love that lasts.

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken

JESUS LOVES ME

BY DAVIS WATSON

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Chorus:
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

Every time I sing this familiar children's song, tears come to my eyes. Knowing no matter what happens to me or my family, Jesus loves me! Jesus loves me in the good times and bad times. Jesus loves me when I'm sick and hurting and when I'm feeling good! I know Jesus loves me for the Bible tells me so.

As I have grown older, I have come to know this Jesus a lot more than when I first sang those words as a child. As a

child, I accepted His love without knowing the tremendous sacrifice Jesus paid for my sins. By leaving heaven, living a sinless life, and by allowing man to hang Him on the Cross to die even though He did no wrong.

Jesus loves me! Before I was born He died on the Cross for my sins as He prepared the way for me to spend eternity with Him. This is the Good News! No matter how we have messed up, Jesus loves you and me! But!

"But what?"

But, we must accept Him as our Lord and Savior!

As Lord, we must be obedient to Him, and as Savior, it is only through His grace we are saved (Ephesians 2:8).

To demonstrate His Lordship in our lives, we must hear the Word of God and believe (John 6:29). We must repent of our sins (Acts 3:19). We must confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:37-38). We must be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins and we will then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-38). Once we have entered this New Covenant with Christ in love we begin to live the Christian life (Revelations 2:10) and share with others (Matthew 28:18-19).

God loves me and He loves you, but He cannot look upon our sin. Therefore, as it says in the Bible in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever

believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Yes, God sent His Son into the world; but, we must out of love for Him, demonstrate our faith for Him by our actions. God did not allow His only Son to die a horrible death on the cross for Christians to be "Pew Potatoes" or if you are a "TV Christian" a "Couch Potato Christian." His desire for us is to become more like His Son, Jesus Christ. We must put our beliefs into action. Without action there is no belief.

Are you ready? Start this week by attending church. Our Bible Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. and our Worship Service begins at 11:00 a.m.

GREAGER'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE



You are invited to an open house at the Community Center on October 3rd from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to celebrate Howard and Betty Greager's 60th wedding anniversary. The party is being hosted by their children. Come celebrate this milestone in Howard and Betty's life. Cards and well wishes are welcome but no gifts please. Food, cake, punch and coffee will be provided.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The Community Christmas Choir begins rehearsals on Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m. at the Redvale Church. If you enjoy singing great Christmas music in four-part harmony, come join your voice with others in the community. Have fun, meet new people, and spread a little Christmas cheer.

HARVEST FESTIVAL APPLE CIDER DAY!



Our annual Apple Cider Day is tentatively set for Sunday, October 11th 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 take home some fresh apple cider. Please bring something to share for the potluck lunch.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Collection week for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes is only seven weeks away. Start planning, shopping, packing and praying. Questions? Call Ron or Cathy Carlson at 864-7434. Thank you for participating in this annual church outreach.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDIES

Our Wednesday Night Studies start up again on Wednesday, October 14th. We will start with a meal at 6 p.m. with the study time beginning at 6:30 p.m. For this session we will split up into a women's study and a men's study.

Here's what we're doing:

TRUE WOMAN STUDY NOW IS THE TIME

"Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

If you missed the True Woman Conference last year, then you won't want to miss this 8-week study on Wednesday nights and become a part of a seismic "holy quake" of countercultural women who dare to take God at His word.

The following is the schedule for the women's study:

10/14/09 "The Ultimate Meaning of True Womanhood" by Pastor John Piper

10/21/09 "From Him, Through Him, To Him" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

10/28/09 "You've Come a Long Way, Baby!" by Mary Kassian

11/04/09 "A Resolve to Believe" by Karen Loritts

11/11/09 "A Woman After God's Own Heart" by Janet Parshall

11/18/09 "God's Jewels" by Joni Eareckson Tada

12/02/09 "For Such A Time As This" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

12/09/09 True Woman Manifesto Ceremony

Discover and embrace God's created design and mission for your life!

PROMISE KEEPERS MEN'S STUDY

The men will be watching a series of talks from past Promise Keepers conferences. Come be inspired and encouraged to be the man God has created you to be.

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN CONFERENCE

Finally! We will be holding the Extraordinary Women Conference on Saturday, October 24th at Norwood Christian Church. Extraordinary Women 2009, now in its 7th year, has impacted thousands of women across the United States. This conference will help you discover how to get real with who you are in Christ so you can live the extraordinary, authentic life God desires for you.

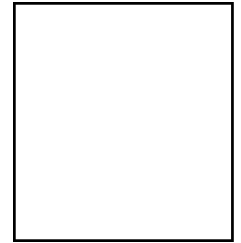
Speakers include: Candace Cameron-Bure, Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Karen Kingsbury, Stormie Omartian, and Anita Renfroe,.

This is open to all ladies in the community, so bring your friends and plan on attending this outstanding conference on October 24th starting at 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and lunch will be served.



Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord... Acts 3:19-20

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Praise Team 7:30PM <i>Howard & Betty Greager-Annv. Larry Miller</i>	2 <i>Garry & Coleen Joseph-Annv.</i>	3 Greager's Anniversary Party at Community Center 1-5PM
4 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	5	6	7 Scout Meeting (Multipurpose Room at Norwood School) 7PM	8 Praise Team 7:30PM <i>Davis & Mary Watson-Annv. Jay & Jacqueline Berg-Annv.</i>	9	10
11 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM Apple Pressing (tentative)	12 <i>Columbus Day</i>	13 Elders & Board Meeting 7PM	14 Dinner/Study 6PM <i>Craig Greager</i>	15 Praise Team 7:30PM	16	17
18 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	19	20	21 Dinner/Study 6PM	22 Praise Team 7:30PM	23	24 Extraordinary Women Conference 8:45AM-4PM
25 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	26	27	28 Dinner/Study 6PM	29 Praise Team 7:30PM	30	31 <i>Reformation Day</i>



Corner of Lincoln & Summit
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Ken@NorwoodChristian.com
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10 AM ~ Bible Study
11 AM ~ Worship Service



SUNDAY SERVANTS

October 4th

Communion Preparation
Ken Lawrence

Greeters
** open **

Communion Servers
Davis & Mary Watson

Communion Meditation
Dean Boehler

Sound Booth/Slides
Zack Calvillo

October 11th

Communion Preparation
Davis Watson

Greeters
Kate Davis & Thomas Lawrence

Communion Servers
** open **

Communion Meditation
Ernie Calvillo

Sound Booth/Slides
Heather Lawrence

October 18th

Communion Preparation
Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters
Ernie Calvillo

Communion Servers
Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Meditation
Davis Watson

Sound Booth/Slides
Zack Calvillo

October 25th

Communion Preparation
Betty Greager

Greeters
Kate Davis & Thomas Lawrence

Communion Servers
Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Meditation
Ken Lawrence

Sound Booth/Slides
Heather Lawrence