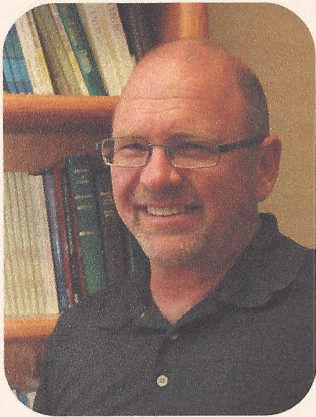


# CORNERSTONE NEWS

Making and Growing Disciples for Christ

November 2014



**I am so thankful** for Dan Warda, our new elder, and Ron Merrill, our new deacon. I'm also very thankful for our four other deacons: Brian Danielsson, David Hill, Cameron Moore, and David Sweitzer. These are gifted and godly men and I'm confident that the Lord will continue to use them to bless the ministry of our church.

However, we must not think that the responsibility for serving Christ in the church begins and ends with the church officers. All Christians are called to be ministers (servants). The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church of Ephesus that the ascended Lord Jesus Christ has gifted men to the church "to equip the saints for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12) Are you a saint? Are you a believer? Then the job of church leaders is to equip you to be an effective minister. The Apostle Paul adds in Ephesians 4:16, "the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love". The idea is that the body of Christ (the church) will enjoy healthy growth when each member is engaged in the life of the body, effectively doing its part. Are you plugged into the body life of the church? Are you doing your part for the spiritual growth of the whole body? Are you being a faithful and effective minister?

John Farese, who passed away on March 9, 2014 at the age of 57 after struggling since birth with paraplegia caused by muscular dystrophy, accomplished more for Christ's kingdom than most physically healthy people. John used to include the following quote at the end of his e-mail messages: "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything. I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. "

**I am so thankful** for all the members of Cornerstone who are doing what they can for their Lord and their church.

From our family to yours we wish you a blessed Thanksgiving as we humbly give thanks to our Lord who has given His all for us.

In His love,  
Pastor Lyn



## ORDINATION of ELDER for DAN WARDA - October 26, 2014

According to the leadership structure of Cornerstone Bible Church Elders are the overseers of the church. Their main responsibility is to shepherd the church by ministering the Word of God and by praying.

*Qualification described in 1 Timothy 3:1*



Laying on of hands in Prayer, for Dan Warda is Pastor Lyn Whitcomb on the left and Pastor Rick Anderson of Faith Community Church of Oxnard on the right.

### DAN WARDA'S SALVATION EXPERIENCE

The Lord out of His abundant grace and mercy saved me in October 1979. I was raised in a Roman Catholic home going to church sporadically growing up. I rode my bicycle to church with a next door neighbor for a period of time while in high school. In August 1979, I began studying at Eastern Michigan University. I wanted to live in the international dormitory because I wanted to keep up with the Spanish language having lived in Mexico only months before as an exchange student. In God's sovereignty He placed me with a Chinese Christian roommate who also knew Spanish. From the day I arrived he began to share the gospel with me.

At that point I found what he was telling me concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ wasn't anything I had not heard before. However, I began to realize he had a relationship with God I didn't have. As I watched him pray before meals, read his Bible and pray. I became aware that there was much more to the Christian faith than I had experience before. At the same time he was witnessing the gospel to me, I was also getting to know some people in a fraternity on campus who were encouraging my involvement and inviting me to their social gatherings. As I went to the frat parties, I quickly realized I was living a life of sin and needed Christ's forgiveness. It was for my birthday in the third week of October that my roommate gave me a Bible. I started reading it and comparing what I have been raised to believe. At the end of October I had such an overwhelming conviction of my sin that all alone in the dorm room I asked Jesus to forgive me and receive me as His child. I was aware that it would cost me my friends as they were bad influences on me. In spite of the fact that I had formally pledged the fraternity and was accepted as a frat brother, one week later, right after becoming a Christian I never went back to any of the fraternity meetings.

Immediately I began to meet Christians on campus who encouraged me to attend A Christian Organization which I was involved in throughout the years I had studied at Eastern Michigan University. I continued attending the Catholic Church for a year as I read the Bible and compared what it taught with what the Roman Catholic Church taught. In 1980, I began attending evangelical churches where I was taught the word of God..

After Graduation from college in 1983. I sought formal biblical studies by attending the Master's Theological Seminary in Panorama City, California. I studied there from 1985-1988. After seminary, I served the Lord as a Bible counselor for 2 years and then as an associate pastor for 2 1/2 years. Since then I have served the Lord by teaching at Christian schools and colleges for more than 13 years.

I am so grateful that God would rescue me from my sin and take me as His child. It is my interest to love, honor, Glorify ,and serve my Savior who is forming me into His image.

Dan Warda



## ORDINATION for DEACON - RON MERRILL - October 26, 2014

According to the leadership structure of Cornerstone Bible Church the Deacons are the servants of the church. Their main responsibility is to take care of the material affairs of the church so the elders can devote themselves to the Word and prayer. *Qualification described in 1 Timothy 3:13*



Laying on of hands in prayer for Ron Merrill is Pastor Lyn Whitcomb on the left, Elder Dan Warda in the center and Pastor Rick Anderson of Faith Community Church in Oxnard on the right

### RON MERRILL'S SALVATION EXPERIENCE

First let me say that I am a sinner. It's not just what I have done who I am apart from Christ, down to the molecules of my flesh, desperately wicked and incapable of doing anything that could come close to pleasing the righteous creator of the lust, murderous rage, lying, fantastic selfishness and laziness, I am guilty of it all and more.

If not for the grace of Jesus Christ, I would still be wallowing in it. Praise God for the gift of His son. I have repented and placed my trust in Jesus, the redeemer of my soul. Exactly when I was converted is not entirely clear to me though because obedience in many areas of my life did not come quickly and even still is being worked out.

I did not grow up in a Christian home, but in high school I was drawn to the "church kids" because they seemed to be the most comfortable with themselves and I felt insecure and lonely inside. Through a free pizza lunch offered by a local church, I began attending their youth group. I recall being alone in the parking lot one evening after a youth group meeting, looking up at the stars. As I was staring at the sky I realized what Jesus had done when He died on the cross. It was like I had been blind but was made to see. At that moment it was clear that I was a sinner and His death on the cross was what I deserved; He died to pay the price for my sin. Shortly after that time I came forward at a youth camp and prayed to accept "Jesus". For me this was kind of intellectual surrender but I am not convinced that it was transformative. I remained involved in the youth group but it was a very social thing and the guilt of my sin kept piling on. On January 1, 1991, my senior year of high school, I remember feeling the weight of that sin drive me to my knees to repent and surrender my life to God. That was the first time I truly repented and put my trust in Christ. At this point God brought me into fellowship with a seminary student named Mike Beasley, Mike was attending Master's Seminary and began to disciple me and a couple of other young Christians. My desire to know God, be conformed to His image, and be in sincere fellowship with other believers was alive.

Since then there have been ups and downs, times of sweet fellowship and obedience and times of disobedience, grief and repentance. I rest in God's promise to be faithful to complete the work that He began and His gracious granting of repentance, washing, regeneration and renewal. Over the last few years I have been growing in my understanding of the gospel and how it is not only for our justification but also our sanctification. God is truly amazing! My desire is to fellowship with you here at Cornerstone and to be submitted to this assembly in the Lord.

If you have any questions about my testimony, my walk, or my struggles please feel free ask.

Rom Merrill

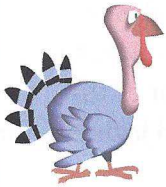


**THANK YOU** to ALL who participated in our first time "Truck or Treat" on October 31st. It was a nice time and a GOOD turn out. Holly Hill did a great job with the face painting and Brian Voigt did a good job as always with the BBQ dogs. Let Brian Danielsson know of any ideas you might have for next year adding to what we learned this year!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- November 2 Shawn King  
 Joshua Switzer  
 Tim Lafromboise  
 7 Rob Jennings  
 10 Jeremy Louer  
 25 David Switzer



**LOOKING AHEAD - PLEASE PUT THE WOMEN'S SHELTER ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST . THE NEEDS ARE GREAT!**

Watch for details in coming bulletins.

**WHAT A BLESSING TO WATCH**

Edgard Serrano and Kyra Merrill

Follow Christ in Baptism Sept. 9th!

**OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE**

There are **Sunday School** classes available for all ages. (9:15am)

**The Bereans:** 6:30-8:00pm at the church. DVD series with R. C. Sproul "From Dust to Glory"

**Midweek Manna:** 6:00-8:00pm. At the home of the Sweitzers, bring food to share. (117 Franklin)

**Christianity Explored:** 6:30-7:30pm at the church. Christianity Explored an eight-week course introducing the message of Christianity using the gospel of Mark.

**Youth Grp & Ladies Grp.** 6:30pm Sunday

**Burroughs HS:** Thurs.@ 11:45-12:45

**Prayer:** 9:00am every Sunday morning in the worship center

**High Desert Haven:** 10:00am each Wednesday and the last Sunday of each month.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Missy and Rene Galvan on the birth of their 2nd son:

Joseph David - Sept. 24th - 8lbs - 19 1/2"

Also to welcome Joseph home was his big brother Tommy!

**GREETING CARDS** are available in Unit B for encouraging one another. Please minister to someone who needs a special touch.

Dear Church Family, **THANK YOU** for the blessing of caring. We appreciate so much your cards, visits and prayer support. We pray this will all be behind us soon. With love, thank you again, In His Care,

Don and Shirley Walton & Family

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

114 S. Gemstone St. Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**Pastor Lyn Whitcomb**

[www.CBCRidgecrest.org](http://www.CBCRidgecrest.org)

(760) 371-1689

Sunday Morning: Prayer 9am

Sunday School: 9:15am

Worship: 10:45am