



# First Edition

## August 2014



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 [www.fbcsanmateo.org](http://www.fbcsanmateo.org)

### ***Our God Is Faithful and He Is Good!***

By Pastor Marc Heinz

I have often heard it said that there are only two certainties in life: death and taxes.

While I wouldn't disagree with this statement, I would quickly add a third certainty, suffering and trials. It would seem to me that every person will at various times in their life suffer and face significant challenges, hurts and trials. Some will suffer more than others, some will suffer less, but no matter how much we try to avoid pain, suffering and trials, I believe that each of us will have to face these issues many times during our earthly lives.

Fact is, that life is tough and at one time or another we will all experience pain, suffering, discouragement and trials. Take just a moment and think about some of the disappointments, hurts or challenges that you are currently facing or that you have recently faced. It's easy to be overwhelmed by the things that happen isn't it? Which is why it is so important for us, as believers to learn to trust and lean upon the Lord at all times! And while it is never easy to suffer or hurt or face trials, these things do have a great deal to teach us about both God and ourselves.

Recently, Candace and I have been reminded that God builds character into our lives through pain, trials and the challenges we face. I am happy to report that we are learning to thank God for our trials and suffering because they have given us a tremendous opportunity to see and experience God's power and love firsthand. Believe it or not God has used our trials and hurts to build up our confidence and trust in Him. I know for many of you, life has not been easy late-

ly. It seems like so many people in the Body of Christ at FBC have been suffering, as they deal with things like surgery, depression, illness, broken or strained relationships, loss and various trials. And if you aren't dealing with such things at present, it is likely that you will be in the future and so I would like to share something with you that has really encouraged and helped Candace and me, and it is this: in the midst of suffering and trials we need to remember that God is at work, and we have a future and a hope! A future that the Lord promises will be free of suffering, pain, sadness, tears or death. Moreover, we should recognize that God is doing something; that He has a plan, even if He's not working as fast as we would like. We also need to remember that through His wise and holy decree, God has already triumphed over evil without eliminating the freedom He so greatly values. Yes, life can be hard, even painful and discouraging at times, the battle is often raging, but the war was won long ago at Calvary on a cross. Therefore, as Christians we dare not lose sight of the fact that we know the final outcome; God wins evil is destroyed forever and we get to live with the Lord forever. However, as long as we are here in this fallen, broken world, we need to understand that the "fall" is the primary problem of all human beings. As a result the most basic problem of mankind is sin, and the only way to solve this problem is through the power of redemption.

In John 16:33, Jesus concluded His discourse by revealing the purpose of the instructions He had just given and the certainty of His victory. Now Jesus' primary purpose in telling the disciples

"these things" was to provide them with "peace", and to tell them that their life in the world would be characterized by "trouble" or suffering. Even more significantly, in the face of the impending cross, Jesus claimed victory over a troubled, unbelieving world. Announcing triumphantly, "But take heart! I have overcome the world." In the face of betrayal, disgrace, pain, and death, Jesus, claims the victory. And the victory Christ has accomplished at the cross is one in which believers share. The reality is that as long as we live on this fallen earth we will face suffering and trials. But Jesus' redemptive work on the cross should not only encourage us, it should also give us the confidence to keep the faith and press on even when we suffer or face trial and challenges. In the words of Paul, "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us".

While there is still much that I don't know or understand about trials and pain and suffering, one thing that I do know is that when I walk through the storms of life I am never, ever alone. My brothers and sisters, our God is faithful and He is good! He truly is the God of all comfort! My prayer is that as you face life's challenges, life's hurts, trials and uncertainties that you do so in strength, filled with God's enabling grace and hope that is eternal and the assurance of God's great love for you!

#### **Special Offerings**

For the month of August will go to the Deacon Reserve Fund.





## VBS SPORTS CAMP & MORE Report

By Alba Kellejian

VBS has come and gone and God faithfully provided for our needs. I want to thank all of you who joined in service during the week of VBS. There was a great sense of unity and joy felt amongst our volunteers and it was a blessing to witness and be a part of. If you were not a part of the week, you missed out. Here is just a glimpse of the week for those of you who were not here and some reasons why you should prayerfully consider being a part of VBS next year.

Together with Off Campus, each day close to 100 students heard that God has a redemptive plan that He has been working out and working through the generations and they were encouraged to trust and follow Jesus and become part of His Big Story.

Children were able to select a special interest option (soccer, basketball, cheer/dance, music & drama, art) in which they spent time learning new skills and putting them into practice.

Our time in God's Word started at our opening rally time in which Pastor Doug introduced our remember verse and our leaders worked with the students throughout the afternoon to commit those verses to memory. Each after-

noon our students went into the chapel to hear a portion of God's Word told in chronological order. We ended our week in God's word with a summary of the entire Bible. Everyone definitely got a big picture view of God's Big Story.

Wednesday night and Friday night, families were invited back to spend some time enjoying food and fellowship and get a better idea of what their children were doing during our time together. We had a great turn out both nights and families were welcomed and loved...and fed.

We had lots of fun bonding with the people God brought to us the week of VBS and while the week may be over, it is almost as if the laughter, songs and many footsteps can still be heard in our hallways.

It is important that we collectively celebrate what it is that we saw God do during our week of VBS so please take a moment or two to write down a few things and post them on the bright green bulletin board in the hallway across from Alba's office. There are cards and pencils just waiting to be used. Please also take a minute to read what others have written down and praise God for what he did here.







THE  
**BIG**  
G  
STORY  
past. present. future.





# Youth Summer 2014

## Off Campus Jr. High VBS

### Go Big

Jesus said, "I Am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end."

How important are stories in life? Story is everything!!! All that we know, all that we have experience becomes a story. So of all the stories that exist, which is the best, the greatest, and the Biggest? It's God's. He's the original story writer. He started the story of life many years ago, and is continuing it today. One day it will be finished when He returns and a new chapter will begin. So what part to you play in that grand story? We had the privilege of sharing God's BIG story with Jr. high kids this year (the gospel) and challenging them to repent, turn to the Lord and seek to know how their story fits with God's BIG story. We were called by God to teach the word of God and give kids the truth about who God is. And then help them to know how, through faith alone in Christ, they can be forgiven of their sins and connect with Him. It was an incredible week. We made some new connections with families and have seen God bring new kids to TNT (Junior High Group).



#### **Birthdays in August:**

August 4: Doris Waddell  
August 5: Sue Moser  
August 6: Corina Miranda

August 16: Krissie Andrews  
August 17: Alba Kellejian  
August 27: Daniel Broussard  
August 31: Dasha Seregin



#### **Anniversaries in August:**

August 14: Marc & Candace  
Heinz  
August 28: David & Debbie  
Shong

## Hume Lake Summer Camp

*“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”*  
Acts 20:24

What are you living for? We are all living for something, so what is it for YOU? Each of us is spending time and energy to make something known in this world. The apostle Paul clearly and powerfully stated that his life was about living for Jesus Christ, and making Him known to the world. Paul summed it up this way, “To live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Phil 1:21

Is that where you are? Anything less than that is to live our lives in vain. Living for self and personal goals and pleasures is a life without impact, significance, and eternal meaning. This year at Hume Lake Summer Camp we were challenged to examine who or what we were living for. We looked at the life of Paul and how he lived for Christ by the power and spiritual connection to the Holy Spirit. This theme introduced

to students is an often misunderstood and yet critical truth about God. That the Holy Spirit, the 3rd person in the Triune God, is here working in the world and indwelling the life of His people to strengthen, guide, and transform us. It was initially a lot of information to assimilate, but as the week progressed and we discussed the implications of the Holy Spirit’s presence in their lives, we began to see the real life impact taking hold in their lives. Please continue to pray for our youth, as many of them are already back in school this week, and facing the difficult challenges of living in a fallen, sinful and hostile world to the gospel.

It’s a powerful and comforting reminder that Jesus Himself said, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)





Over the past few weeks, the Women's Ministries have been concentrating on prayer and meditation, and we decided it would be good to think about how to approach God in prayer. Here are some of the principles we learned:

What is prayer? Why do we pray? How do we pray? Jesus gave us guidelines in Matthew 6:9-13, which we call the Lord's Prayer. These are not merely words that we are supposed to repeat but they are His teaching on how we should approach God. Prayer is communication with God. It is the atmosphere in which we live, or at least it should be. Let's review the guidelines Our Lord gave us because they are the best ones!

**OUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME  
YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** (Matthew 6:9, 10)

We have been given the privilege of coming to God as our Father, because we have trusted in Christ's death and resurrection as payment for our sin and His overcoming of death on our behalf. This is our opportunity to commune with the Lord of the Universe, who wants to hear from His children. We come humbly and worshipfully, giving reverence to His name. We pray that the Lord return to take His rightful place as Ruler of All. Let's live in eagerness to see Him return and establish His glorious kingdom. Remember that we will reign with Him! The angels in heaven obey Him, and we ask Him to come and reign over us even now, taking His rightful place in our daily lives and ruling over our circumstances.

**GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS** (Matthew 6:11, 12)

This is the time we ask Him to provide for our needs. As the people of Israel gathered fresh manna every day (except the Sabbath, for which God made special provision), we need to be fed spiritually and physically. Scripture also tells us that *man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4).

As for forgiveness, we need it, and this should always be a part of our prayers, because sin in the heart hinders our prayers. Let's be sure to name and confess our sins, and turn from them. The word for sin in Greek is "hamartia", which means missing the mark. Do we

ask God for His forgiveness as soon as we sin? Also, since He has forgiven us, He expects us to follow His example.

**AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL** (Matthew 6:13)

I believe this is a prayer asking God to protect us, to help us overcome a temptation or time of testing. James 1:12 tells us, *"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial, for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* In his book, How to Pray, R. A. Torrey says, "many temptations come upon us unawares and unannounced, and all that we can do is to lift a cry to God for help then and there; but many of the temptations of life we can see approaching from the distance, and in such cases the victory should be won before the temptation really reaches us." One of my favorite verses is Ezra 8:31, which says, "the hand of our God was over us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the ambushes by the way." We don't know what a day will bring. Let us, therefore, put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) so that we may be able to stand firm against the wiles of our enemy. In Ephesians 6:18, the Apostle Paul tells us, *"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints. . ."* Whether we realize it or not, this life is a battle, but remember that the One Who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. And you put on the Armor by reading of the Word of God and prayer.

**FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.** (Matthew 6:13)

In many versions, these words are in brackets, meaning that many manuscripts do not contain them. Nevertheless, they are certainly true. Philippians 4:6, 7 tells us to make our requests to God by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. End your prayers with worship.

Let's look at some additional principles regarding prayer:

- Start and end each day with prayer. Come before God with praise, love and humility.
- The principal aim of prayer is to deepen our relationship with Him; to know Him better and better, to love Him more. Prayer and reading of His Word are inseparable.



*I would like to extend my gratitude to my church family for all the your prayers, cards, phones calls and flowers that I received after my surgery. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and concern.*

*Love Candace*

- Make your request in the name of Our Lord and in accordance with His will, coming to God on Christ's merit, not our own.
- Pray without ceasing. (Keeping an attitude of prayer throughout your day.)
- Wait expectantly for His answer (Hebrews 11:6).
- Remember that He promises that he will not withhold what is good from those who walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11). However, what Our Father says is good may not always be what we think we want at the time. There have been times when I thank God that He did not give me what I asked for.

So, to review, let us follow our Lord's own guidelines that He has given to His disciples and to us as we approach Our Father in heaven in prayer. Find a quiet place where you can be undisturbed when you speak with Him. Let's be sensitive to the "still, small voice." Remember that prayer must involve a lot of listening to God. Be sure to spend time prayerfully reading the Word so that you can know Him better, and your relationship with Him will become deeper and deeper. There is great joy in communing with God which surpasses the so-called happiness we look for. Happiness is a temporary state, but joy will carry you through your life's ups and downs as you go through them with Him. In his book, The Red Sea Rules, Robert J. Morgan offers this advice: "The reality of God's presence both comforts our hearts and restrains our behavior. . . . The best way to develop an abiding awareness of God's presence is to speak to Him often in prayer. Prayer is the environment in which we most solidly connect with God on an intimate basis. We may not always feel his presence in an emotional sense, but by faith we enter His presence in a vital spiritual sense."

I have a refrigerator magnet at home that offers good advice: "A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel."

# LIFE OF THE CHURCH

# August 2014

| SUN  | MON                              | TUE  | WED   | THU                            | FRI | SAT                    |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
|  |                                  |  |   |                                | 1   | 2                      |
| <b>SUNDAY MORNINGS:</b>                        |                                  |  |   |                                |     |                        |
| 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults   |                                  |  |   |                                |     |                        |
| Contemporary Style Worship                     |                                  |  |   |                                |     |                        |
| 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth |                                  |  |   |                                |     |                        |
| Classical Style Worship                        |                                  |  |   |                                |     |                        |
| 3  | 4                                | 5  | 6   | 7                              | 8   | 9                      |
| <b>Communion</b>                               | 7pm Scouts                       | 6:30pm Women's Ministry Party<br>7pm AI-Anon<br>7pm C.A.D. | 6:30pm Midweek Service<br>8pm Worship Rehearsal | 3pm Youth Band Reh.<br>7pm TNT |     | 9am Leadership Meeting |
| 12:30 Missions Meeting                         |                                  |  |   |                                |     |                        |
| 10   | 11                               | 12   | 13  | 14                             | 15  | 16                     |
| 12:30 Children's Ministry Lunch                | 7pm Prayer Meeting<br>7pm Scouts | 7pm AI-Anon<br>7pm C.A.D.                                  | 6:30pm Midweek Service<br>8pm Worship Rehearsal | 3pm Youth Band Reh.<br>7pm TNT |     |                        |
| 17   | 18                               | 19   | 20  | 21                             | 22  | 23                     |
|  | 7pm Scouts                       | 7pm AI-Anon<br>7pm C.A.D.                                  | 6:30pm Midweek Service<br>8pm Worship Rehearsal | 3pm Youth Band Reh.<br>7pm TNT |     |                        |
| 24   | 25                               | 26   | 27  | 28                             | 29  | 30                     |
|  | 7pm Prayer Meeting<br>7pm Scouts | 7pm AI-Anon<br>7pm C.A.D.                                  | 6:30pm Midweek Service<br>8pm Worship Rehearsal | 3pm Youth Band Reh.<br>7pm TNT |     |                        |
| 31   |                                  |  |   |                                |     |                        |

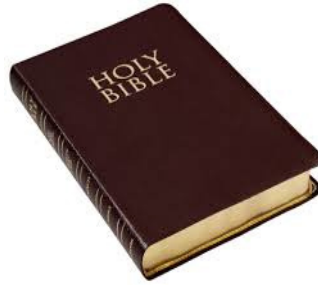
## Daily Bible Readings - August

The following Bible reading schedule was compiled by Robert Murray McChesney in 1842. Using this Bible reading schedule you will read four portions of Scripture each day (two in the morning with "family" or individually and two in the evening in "secret" or privately), and read through the Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice in a year.

|        |    |              |          |            |           |
|--------|----|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Fri.   | 1  | Judg. 15     | Acts 19  | Jer. 28    | Mark 14   |
| Sat.   | 2  | Judg. 16     | Acts 20  | Jer. 29    | Mark 15   |
| Sun.   | 3  | Judg. 17     | Acts 21  | Jer. 30,31 | Mark 16   |
| Mon.   | 4  | Judg. 18     | Acts 22  | Jer. 32    | Ps. 1,2   |
| Tues.  | 5  | Judg. 19     | Acts 23  | Jer. 33    | Ps. 3,4   |
| Wed.   | 6  | Judg. 20     | Acts 24  | Jer. 34    | Ps. 5,6   |
| Thurs. | 7  | Judg. 21     | Acts 25  | Jer. 35    | Ps. 7,8   |
| Fri.   | 8  | Ruth 1       | Acts 26  | Jer. 36,45 | Ps. 9     |
| Sat.   | 9  | Ruth 2       | Acts 27  | Jer. 37    | Ps. 10    |
| Sun.   | 10 | Ruth 3,4     | Acts 28  | Jer. 38    | Ps. 11,12 |
| Mon.   | 11 | 1 Sam. 1     | Rom. 1   | Jer. 39    | Ps. 13,14 |
| Tues.  | 12 | 1 Sam. 2     | Rom. 2   | Jer. 40    | Ps. 15,16 |
| Wed.   | 13 | 1 Sam. 3     | Rom. 3   | Jer. 41    | Ps. 17    |
| Thurs. | 14 | 1 Sam. 4     | Rom. 4   | Jer. 42    | Ps. 18    |
| Fri.   | 15 | 1 Sam. 5,6   | Rom. 5   | Jer. 43    | Ps. 19    |
| Sat.   | 16 | 1 Sam. 7,8   | Rom. 6   | Jer. 44    | Ps. 20,21 |
| Sun.   | 17 | 1 Sam. 9     | Rom. 7   | Jer. 46    | Ps. 22    |
| Mon.   | 18 | 1 Sam. 10    | Rom. 8   | Jer. 47    | Ps. 23,24 |
| Tues.  | 19 | 1 Sam. 11    | Rom. 9   | Jer. 48    | Ps. 25    |
| Wed.   | 20 | 1 Sam. 12    | Rom. 10  | Jer. 49    | Ps. 26,27 |
| Thurs. | 21 | 1 Sam. 13    | Rom. 11  | Jer. 50    | Ps. 28,29 |
| Fri.   | 22 | 1 Sam. 14    | Rom. 12  | Jer. 51    | Ps. 30    |
| Sat.   | 23 | 1 Sam. 15    | Rom. 13  | Jer. 52    | Ps. 31    |
| Sun.   | 24 | 1 Sam. 16    | Rom. 14  | Lam. 1     | Ps. 32    |
| Mon.   | 25 | 1 Sam. 17    | Rom. 15  | Lam. 2     | Ps. 33    |
| Tues.  | 26 | 1 Sam. 18    | Rom. 16  | Lam. 3     | Ps. 34    |
| Wed.   | 27 | 1 Sam. 19    | 1 Cor. 1 | Lam. 4     | Ps. 35    |
| Thurs. | 28 | 1 Sam. 20    | 1 Cor. 2 | Lam. 5     | Ps. 36    |
| Fri.   | 29 | 1 Sam. 21,22 | 1 Cor. 3 | Ezek. 1    | Ps. 37    |
| Sat.   | 30 | 1 Sam. 23    | 1 Cor. 4 | Ezek. 2    | Ps. 38    |
| Sun.   | 31 | 1 Sam. 24    | 1 Cor. 5 | Ezek. 3    | Ps. 39    |

## Passages from God's Word

Submitted by Doris Waddell



Pastor Marc has been teaching that God has a sense of humor, and I believe this is one passage that illustrates that He does indeed intend for us to laugh with Him.

*"Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let*

*him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. "For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands." Isaiah 55:6-12*

Can you imagine mountains and hills shouting for joy and trees clapping their hands without at least having a smile on your face? *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."* (Nehemiah 8:10) Experience the joy! Worship our God of the improbable and even the impossible.



### Prayer Meetings This Month: August 11 and 25 7:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room

We pray for the church;  
we pray for those in need;  
we pray for each other;  
and through it all we praise God for His amazing Presence with us.  
Come see if you won't be refreshed at the end of a tiring day!



*Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available. Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.*

**FBC** WOMEN'S  
*Ministry*



### Tuesday, August 5 End of Summer Party 6:30 p.m.

Pizza Party  
at  
Roundtable Pizza  
in the  
Laurelwood Shopping  
Center

Why?  
To Celebrate  
Our 1 Year Anniversary.



ATTENTION ALL MEN: **Save the Date:**  
**The Next**  
**Men's Ministry Monthly Breakfast**  
Saturday, Sept. 6, 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel.