



TIME FLIES... SO LIVE WISELY

DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope you are enjoying the fall season. Thanksgiving, Advent, fall seasonal changes and daylight savings time remind us that we are moving through time even if we stay in the same place. We can resist change but we cannot resist time! On second thought, we really can't resist change either because all things change over time.

I feel like I am hurtling through the days, weeks, months and years of my life. Sunday comes every three days it seems! *Tempus fugit...* time flies! We can't stop time or even slow it down but we can make sure we are experiencing it in ways that honor and glorify God and bless people. That's what Paul writes in Ephesians 5:16: ***Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.***

Evil? Yes, there are dangers all around us that draw us into complicity with evil. How so? First, Satan is on the attack in our world even though his days are numbered and his power cannot withstand the kingdom of God. The gates of hell cannot prevail against the advance of God's kingdom on earth. But still Satan tries to discourage us, distract us, tempt us and intimidate us into participating actively or passively in things that are evil. Our silence or compliance in the face of sinful behaviors reinforces evil in the world. The bad guys win when the good guys give ground to evil. What shall we do? Run away? No, we redeem the time by living wisely! We thoughtfully, prayerfully, boldly and creatively express the love, grace, goodness and truth of Jesus in our everyday interactions with others.

By God's grace and power let's push back against anything that deviates from what we know is good. How do we know what is good? We discover it and discern good from evil as we study and apply God's word in community with others. **We are watchful, not fearful!** That's how we make the most of our time, all the time, one-day at time.

May you enjoy the fullness of the season.

Yours,

Pastor Steve Murray

P.S. If you want to learn more about how the Bible makes us wise and discover an easy way to apply God's word to your life day by day, please take time to watch the 'Make Me Wise' video on our web site. (Click on "Daily Devotions" ad.)

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CELEBRATING
6 YEARS
OF WORSHIP
TOGETHER

THE *PO*W^{er} A CAMP EXPERIENCE

Close to Nature, Close to God

[An Interview by Charles Molenkamp]

One of the things we learn from the Bible is that when God wants to do something BIG in our lives, it almost always starts with Him putting people in a tent away from home. That's why we intentionally take kids to summer and winter camps. It's a place away from

home (which often involves a tent) where God often starts very BIG things in kids' lives—things with eternal significance. Here's what 6th graders Luke Skinner and Catherine McBee had to say about camp:

What do you like best about camp?

Luke: We get to hang out with friends and go in depth into the Bible. Camp helps me feel closer to God and realize He is always with me.

Catherine: The fun activities like "Awfong", canoeing, zip line, wacky water day. A lot of the activities are designed around helping us see how God works in our lives.

Why do you think some kids choose not to go to camp?

Luke: Because they think it's not valuable.

Catherine: Because they're not used to being away from home.

What would you want to say to these kids to encourage them to go?

Luke: It's a lot of fun and it's a great

Catherine (center) with fellow campers



experience and you get to stay up late and play night games.

Catherine: It can be a little scary on the way up because you don't know what to expect, but once you get there and start to have fun, it just gets better and better. It's a comfortable place to be yourself and talk to someone if you need to.

Describe your relationship with Jesus.

Luke: My relationship with Jesus is good but still growing. Jesus in my heart makes me feel secure, He is always with me. My life with Jesus feels great and without Him I would be nothing.

Catherine: When I wake in the morning, I talk to Jesus first, then when I get out of bed I feel better. He's with me. He doesn't give us just one chance to accept him. I'm constantly inviting him into my heart.

Winter Camp for 4th - 6th graders at Forest Home is coming Feb. 10th-12th. Don't miss it!

Luke (right) with fellow campers



JESUS IS THEIR HOMEBOY.

[By Shawn Parr]

Guys in the LJCC Youth Ministry



cocktail of boredom and the pursuit of mischief. Talk to or spend time with young lads in our youth group, however, and you'll quickly realize what an amazing group of intelligent, witty and kind-hearted young men we have in our midst. Since becoming actively involved in the youth group two years ago, I've watched my son Liam bond with, grow up with and look up to his brothers in the youth group and I clearly understand why he loves surfing, laughing and hanging out with them. They've got a guiding light, a north star that connects them. Here's how three of the guys describe it:

1 "I have struggled with the implications of divorce, substance abuse, and loneliness in my life and I don't know where I'd be without the support and wisdom Christ has

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The trouble with teenage boys in so many communities today is that they're either getting into trouble or looking for it, with nothing to guide them other than a deadly



Gina Taffi

On Sunday, October 23rd, Pastor Dan Sharp and our Youth Director Chris Tardiff baptized 13 people from LJCC in the ocean at La Jolla Shores. It was a memorable experience for all involved!

Dear Dan and Chris,

I want to thank you both for blessing me fully and completely yesterday with your presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

There is nothing like a lived experience such as this to solidify one's commitment to walk with Christ no matter what... I think it's the "no matter what" that trips a lot of us up. But, when the Holy Spirit comes to reside within you forever—what could compare? Nothing in my experience.

Felt surreal to me in many respects and yet, the memory of this momentous occasion will stand as a milestone in my walk with the Lord for the rest of my life and forevermore.

Holy, Holy, Holy—being dunked three times worked for me!

With blessings and gratitude,

Gina Taffi

NEW LIFE Through Baptism

“Being able to publicly proclaim my faith was really important to me, and what better place to do that than on a beach in San Diego? The symbolism in the ceremony was so powerful. As I was being lowered into my watery tomb, I could feel that I was dying to myself, and as I was pulled out I knew that I had started my new life in Jesus!”

-- Matt Twohig, junior, La Jolla High School



Some notes from Pastor Steve Murray about Baptism:

Baptism is a sign and seal of God's redemptive work in Jesus Christ. Baptism is the outward, public expression of the inward, personal work of God in the life of a believer. Baptism is a symbol and seal of what God does in bringing salvation to each person who receives Him by faith. Believers need only be baptized once, though some believers find it meaningful to commemorate their baptism if they were originally baptized as infants. If you would like to be baptized, please contact Pastor Steve.

FROM SELF-SERVING to SERVING OTHERS

[By Laura Tan]

Tim Marusich and family



*In his freshman
year of high
school, his
brother died
tragically...
“I stopped being
self-serving
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That’s when I
asked God
to come
into my life.”*

fondly remembers his brother as a quiet, smart, sensitive, and giving young man. “I stopped being self-serving that day. That’s when I asked God to come into my life.”

After high school and college, Tim embarked on a flourishing career in technology and landed an executive position at Microsoft, where it didn’t take long for his pursuit of worldly success to leave him feeling empty again. He pulled out a list of goals he had written five years earlier. “I wanted

to be married, to be a father, to be involved with church, to teach, to give back, and to have a certain financial goal. After being with Microsoft for over six years, the only thing I had achieved was the financial goal. In everyone else’s eyes I was a success, but I wasn’t a success in my own eyes. I had to change course.” Tim walked away from his unvested stock options and financial security and resigned from Microsoft.

Upon returning to San Diego, he met Steve Murray who introduced him to many volunteer opportunities. His faith grew as he got connected to his church community. It was while volunteering that God gave Tim an opportunity to make use of all he had been equipped with for a greater purpose. He volunteered to mentor two Point Loma Nazarene students seeking help for a start-up called BlueHornet.com. When the funding ran out after the tech bubble burst, Tim stepped in to fund and run the company. “We grew from one employee to being now one of the leading email service providers in the U.S. We donated time and money to many great causes even before we made a dollar of profit; it created a culture of gratitude and generosity that continued for years.”

Since leaving BlueHornet after it was acquired by another company, Tim has devoted his time to his passion and mission, which is to encourage and support the building of generous businesses or in Tim’s words, “organizations that exists for making a difference, both in the lives of the employees and the greater community.”

This transformation to serving others has been richly rewarding for

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“ *Unless a kernel of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a single kernel. But if it dies it produces many seeds. – John 12:24* ”

Dying to self is the most challenging part of the Christian walk. In the case of Social Entrepreneur, Tim Marusich, this has been a gradual, painful, but richly rewarding journey.

Tim was raised in a culturally Christian home. His mother was a single divorced mom with five children. In his early years he focused on worldly success and had a side business in high school. “I was nominated most-popular, had lettered in two sports, had a couple of girlfriends I was interested in, and was riding around on a motorcycle, as if I was cool,” says Tim. But this all changed his freshman year of high school when his brother died tragically. Tim

HAND ⁱⁿ HAND with God

[By Laura Georgakakos]



Mary and Gene Rumsey

How many prayer postures are pictured in the Bible? Jesus “fell with his face to the ground and prayed.” (Matt 26:39). He “knelt down and prayed.” (Luke 22:41). In John 17:1 at the dinner table He “looked toward heaven and prayed.” Prayers are offered with hands lifted, with heads bowed, sitting, standing, and lying down.

As church began recently the man in front of me was sitting alone. A few minutes into the service his wife slipped in. It was obvious they belonged together not only because she took the seat beside him but also because she immediately slipped her right hand under his arm. Throughout the service she sat with her whole body and head tilted slightly in his direction. Her adult daughter, sitting on her left, would occasionally lean in to whisper a comment or question and the woman would respond, but by posture and touch she stayed oriented toward and connected to her husband. And at the end of the service, as the congregation rose, she and her husband reached for each others’ hands at precisely the same instant. It was a tiny, private gesture and beautiful to see. Without a word exchanged, volumes were spoken between them and about them as a couple.

Those moments that I witnessed of a loving, respectful, longstanding marriage also pictured to me our most important prayer posture as the bride of Christ—holding onto Him and leaning toward

right. In our prayer closet, stuck in traffic, wherever we arrive throughout our day, He is already there waiting for us. We have only to settle in beside Him and slip our hand into His through prayer. And when our time of prayer ends and we rise to head back out into the world, He reaches for our hand at the very instant that we reach for His. We study the Bible, we incline ourselves toward Him. We lean in to whisper our secret pain.

And so we head out there neither alone nor empty-handed. After all, this was entirely His idea—this fellowship, this salvation, this thing called prayer, this new life in Christ. He so wanted the feel of our hand in His that He came to die to make it possible. He reached across the impossible divide to each of us. Kneeling or standing, lean in. And thank Him for saving you a seat.

Father, thank You for the many ways you picture Your love to us throughout each week. And for putting Mary and Gene Rumsey right in front of me to illustrate, through their love for each other, your love for each of us. We love You too. Amen.

The Making of a PRAYER WARRIOR

[By Scott Lee]

I don’t remember exactly when Pat MacCracken asked me to take over the prayer chain for her, but I think it’s been two years or so. I was happy to do it because I can type and edit quickly. However, I’ve never been much of a prayer warrior. I’ve had a conversational relationship with God for a long time, but I never really spent much time in praise or supplication through prayer. I figured that helping to send the prayer chain out to the “real” prayer warriors would be a good service for someone like me.

But as time went by, I noticed more and more that the Holy Spirit was leading and teaching me. I learned more about the tangible relationship that exists between prayer and what He wants to do in people’s lives. Jesus is always interceding for us in prayer to the Father. He knows our needs before we do (Matt. 6:6-8), and the Father answers the prayers of the faithful.

I’ve learned to pray to be in His will, to discern and to understand



Scott Lee, Prayer Warrior

His will, and to conform my thoughts and actions to His will. As prayer leads me into conformance with God’s perfect will, my prayers have matured, and I more consistently ask for things that are already in conformance with His will, as He has instructed (1 John 5:14-15).

It’s a blessing to know about some of the struggles and celebrations going on in our congregation. It helps me to be a better worship team member. Through the prayer chain, we witness people being saved, health restored in miraculous ways,

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Corinne Lynch and family

Women's Retreat the week before and admitted to everyone that I wasn't really a "joiner."

Not only did that weekend open me up in ways I hadn't thought possible, but by accepting Janet's invitation, I've now been part of a life group that sustains me and helps me grow spiritually. Six of us meet on Friday mornings; currently we are reading *How People Grow* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend, which is a study

on what the Bible reveals about personal growth. For me, in part, the book is metaphor on growing with six beloved sisters in Christ who are my life group.

While it's true we discuss highly meaningful topics you would expect six women to cover—shoes, the relative merits of shopping at Nordstrom Rack vs. Nordstrom, recipes, schools, jobs, kids, our husbands (don't worry guys)—because we are connected on a deeper level, we have quite literally, a sacred trust. The

foundation of our relationship is Jesus, and so everything, be it the smallest details of our days to the profound events that shape our lives, is informed by His holy word. We are seeking to know God better, and as such, are being transformed as a group. We root for each other in a way that is similar but different from other friendships I've known. I believe it's because we are here to share an intimate relationship with God, not just each other.

I can come to my life group with whatever is on my heart; I can share unflattering stories where I look frankly terrible without feeling the need to protect my image, my reputation or my character. These women will pray with me, will challenge my thinking when I'm going down the wrong path, will weep when I am weeping and will laugh loudly at things that are ironic and funny. During the week, I think and pray for them, I wonder about their days, the challenges I know they're facing, the celebrations they're experiencing, the ordinary and the amazing things that make up all of our lives as we're walking with God. And I know they're doing the same for me. I can't think of a better gift.

+ WHAT MY LIFE GROUP MEANS TO ME

[By Corinne Lynch]

A little more than two years ago, Janet Murray invited me to join her life group. I was surprised and honored to be asked, especially since I'd stood up at the LJCC

LJCC COMMUNITY LIGHTENS HER LOAD

[By Michelle Le Beau]

Matthew 11:29-30 "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Do you ever feel like you're walking on the spine of a knife-edged ridgeline with no road or trail to follow and no safety net should you stumble and fall? Mary Kwan recalls feeling that way... literally, when she did something completely out of character five years ago and embarked on a life-changing Outward Bound hiking excursion through the southern province of Malaysia.

It was the hardest thing she had ever done. After surgery four months earlier to remove four lumps on her breast, she was still rather weak physically and emotionally. "I was down on myself for being so young and having all these

health issues." A teacher at her high school, worried about Mary's life direction, encouraged her to go on the trip.

It was on Mary's ascent up Mt. Kinabalu in Sabah that the air became so thin she didn't think she could go on. She began to cry because she thought she was dragging everyone else down. Someone offered to stop and pray with her. Others sensed that her backpack was too heavy and offered to carry things for her so she could traverse across the narrow ridge with greater confidence.

At the top of the peak, Mary shook with excitement as she marveled at God's creation. "I never thought I'd be at a point where I could feel the clouds under my feet. I felt like I could reach the sun! It was the most amazing thing I've ever experienced."

When she looks back on this experience, Mary is astonished at how it mirrors her life now. She is so grateful that God led her to LJCC back in December 2010 -- a time when she was feeling very stressed due to final exams and projects to complete. Everyone was so welcoming and she has



Mary Kwan

LIFE JOURNEY

felt very much at home at LJCC ever since. She loves how the worship services revive her emotions. She's had a chance to join LJCC's Chinese students at their weekly Bible study. "It's so much easier to study scripture and talk about Jesus with a group of mentors and friends."

Mary says her stress load is a lot lighter and she feels more sure-footed about her life journey now that she has Christian brothers and sisters alongside her to love and support her and lighten her load. And she knows the end of her journey with Christ will be even more glorious than any mountain ever climbed!



SHAPE

Proves Fruitful!

[Suzanne Baumann and Judy Barth]

We want to thank those of you who have completed the SHAPE profile to date -- over 125 people and counting! More importantly, we want to acknowledge those who have responded to our requests to use their SHAPE to build up the body of Christ at LJCC. Here are a few recent examples of how this is working!

- We reached out to those who indicated they enjoyed Writing to seek help with this newsletter. **Results:** Five new writers for this issue!
- We reached out to those with the gift of Craftsmanship (or those who liked to "build things") to seek help building our new book cart. **Result:** John Bryan showed up within two hours of the email and built it for us that day!

- We reached out to those with the gift of Hospitality to see if they'd like to serve on our Sunday morning Coffee Crew. **Results:** Six new team members!

- We reached out to a longtime member who indicated he liked babies to see if he'd like to serve in our nursery once a month. **Result:** A new nursery volunteer!

- We reached out to a few people with the gifts of Shepherding, Encouragement, and Wisdom to see if they'd like to facilitate a life group. **Result:** Two new life group facilitators!

To learn how you were uniquely created by God for ministry, take the SHAPE profile today! You'll find it under the "GIVE/SERVE" tab on our main navigation bar at www.ljcommunitychurch.org.

The Making of a PRAYER WARRIOR

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relationships restored and renewed, lives touched, and (my favorite) the little ones among us in conversation with Jesus.

I treat the preparation time as a prayer exercise, and listen to worship music while editing the list. I believe the Holy Spirit is present in the prayers, and I

believe He guides me in writing them. When I finish the covering prayer, I often sit in awe of what He says in it.

By the way, I'm very happy to have the privilege of doing this for LJCC, but I'm also happy to share! If you're interested in learning more about what this job entails, please contact Pastor Sharp or me.

In addition to managing the prayer chain, Scott Lee is the drummer and "occasional soloist" on the LJCC Worship Team.



Dave Colvard and Mark Riley, Trees of Hope, 2010

OUTREACH

A Blessing to Serve at Trees of Hope!

An email from Maricarmen Garcia to Pastor Dan Sharp sent December 7, 2010:

*I had a good time at the Trees of Hope event, where I volunteered as a "greeter" for the people waiting in line for trees. What a blessing it was to see people arriving with **Hope** and leaving with **Joy**. In the end, isn't that what Christmas is all about? A journey of Hope, that produces Joy and culminates with Peace.*

As a volunteer airport ambassador at Lindberg Field, I talk with people and assist them all the time. Since I speak several foreign languages and have studied in other countries, I have the privilege of relating with people through their language or their cultural traditions. I had this experience with some of the recipients of the Christmas trees who came from different ethnic backgrounds. Let me assure you that they all left with a very positive image of LJCC, not only through the first impression of the facilities but through the warmth and the friendliness of the people serving that day and how well organized the event was.

My daughters and I have been attending your church on a more regular basis, as we prepare to transfer our membership from our former church to LJCC. I am excited about what LJCC offers and whatever else can be done. That's why I thank you for not denying me the opportunity to serve, in spite of my being just a visitor (a "frequent" one, though!).

Maricarmen Garcia is now an official member of LJCC and sings in the choir!

For the third year in a row, LJCC will be giving away FREE Christmas trees to our neighbors in the community on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Dan Sharp at (858) 558-9020 x205.



UPCOMING CLASSES & EVENTS

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED, Thursday, Nov. 24th and Friday, Nov. 25th
in observance of Thanksgiving

FIRST DAY IN ADVENT - Sunday, November 27th
Pick up your Advent Booklets at LJCC

TREES OF HOPE OUTREACH - Saturday, December 3rd, 8 am to noon

MOM AND ME PLAY GROUP - Tuesday, December 6th, 9 am to 10:30 am

GINGERBREAD HOUSE FAMILY NIGHT - Friday, December 9th, 5 pm to 7 pm

MOM AND ME SPORTS EDITION - Tuesday, December 20th, 9 am to 10:30 am

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED, Friday, Dec. 23rd in observance of Christmas

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Saturday, December 24th,
4:00 pm and 5:30 pm

COMMUNION SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday, December 25th,
one service at 10:00 am

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED, Monday, Dec. 26th in observance of Christmas

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Sunday, January 1st, one service at 10:00 am

ONGOING EVENTS

H.O.P.E. AT BRISTOL FARMS ON GENESEE AVE. - Mondays, 10:00 - 11:00 am

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION - Wednesdays, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, LJCC

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING - 2nd Wednesday of each month, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



la jolla
Community Church

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Michelle Le Beau, Director of
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Children's Ministry - ext 208

Chris Tardiff, Director of Youth Ministry
- ext 206

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- ext 207

JESUS IS THEIR HOMEBOY.

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has shown me through our youth group. I have learned that it is essential to be in personal relationship with Christ, and that the basis for this relationship is having a network of believers who can guide and comfort me. It has been amazing these past couple years to see how real God is and how he has helped those in our group become more childlike toward him so we can call him in every sense of the word 'Abba'."

2 "The youth group at LJCC has become an amazing guide for the choices I make in my life. Without this group, my life would be completely different. I would have no one to hold me accountable and no motivation to become not only a stronger person, but a stronger man of God. No matter what we are going through, every one of us knows we are there for each other and we have each other's backs through whatever hardships we're going through. I especially enjoy my weekly life group -- I look forward to it at the beginning of the week and it prepares

me for the events I face toward the end of the week and on the weekend. It seems as if every week, the scripture lesson is perfectly correlated with what my emotions are that week. I sense that God is working in my life to prepare me to handle the future with greater peace."

3 "The youth group is where I can go to get away from all the stuff that bothers me in my day-to-day life. Without it, I have no place to express my feelings or what's on my mind at the current time. It also gives me a better understanding of the perspective of God and helps me see what God is doing in all my friends' lives. We're a real tight group, but it's always great when new people come in. We're a welcoming bunch and nothing would feel worse than people feeling unwelcome in our group. I hope people think of our youth group as a safe place like I do."

As parents, we owe Chris and Karrie Tardiff a huge nod of appreciation. They invest and devote a huge amount of time as adult mentors to the youth of our church, taking them to camps, to lunch every Sunday, caring about them, inviting them into

their home and being available whenever needed. These young guys are blessed in so many ways, but they still live in a time and place where the temptations and distractions are no less challenging than anywhere else. They've chosen God as their guide, and it shows in who they are and the choices they make. If they are tomorrow's leaders, then I for one, have great hope for our future and the world we will live in.

FROM SELF-SERVING to SERVING OTHERS

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Tim. His favorite verse is Psalm 84:11 "No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly." "If we walk upright and are helping others, are building our faith and setting examples for others, it's just amazing the blessings that come our way."

Tim is currently building an organization with Dr. Gene Rumsey called Kids4Sight.org. It will support Mercy Hospital's Outreach program to bring eye surgery to children along the border.