

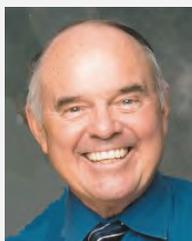


# The Good News Letter

January 9, 2019

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 (NKJV)

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Church Family:

Dear Church Family: Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

... I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I

in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, and thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:1-8.

Many times during my years in evangelism, I would ask the audience, "What is the job of the branch?" Invariably most of the people would respond, "To bear fruit!"

Yet a careful reading of this passage shows that the job of the branch is to stay connected to the vine. If that doesn't happen, no fruit will come forth. Jesus clearly says, "Apart from me, you can do nothing!" No fruit. None!

What does it mean to stay attached to (remain in) the Vine, and how does one effectively do so? Personally, I do not know any other way to stay connected to the lifeline of Christ than through prayer. Prayer and intercession bear much fruit in the Kingdom of God only when we are effectively attached to the vine.

Many of us miss the opportunity to bear abundant fruit, simply because we do not stay continually in the presence of God in order to hear from Him. And if we don't listen how can we respond to His voice? Many believers fail to multiply the effectiveness of prayer because they don't submissively go beyond the act of prayer to obedient action.

As we learn to intercede on behalf of people and situations, the Holy Spirit will flow from the Vine into our hearts and create within us a desire to do God's will in our lives. Our job is to stay attached. The Vine's job is to produce fruit in and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He alone can show us how to be the answer to the prayers we pray in ways that will glorify Him.

I am looking forward to worshipping with you this Sabbath. It will be a full weekend with a baptism and a special tour of Loma Linda and concluding with Vespers and supper at the Vollmers in the evening. My sermon title is, "Jesus Is Praying for You."

Pastor J. Lynn Martell

## INSPIRED THOUGHTS

"Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul's contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness."—*Steps to Christ*, 70 (1892).

## CALENDAR

### Sabbath, January 12

- 9:15 am Veranda Fellowship Ministry
- 9:45 am **Children's Sabbath School Classes**
- 10:00 am Adult Sabbath School Class  
"Among the Lampstands"
- 10:00 am Leccion do Escuela Sabatica
- 11:00 pm Sermon
- 12:30 pm Fellowship Luncheon
- 1:00 pm Spanish language sermon
- 3:00 pm Loma Linda Tour
- 4:30 pm Vespers at the Vollmers
- 5:03 pm Sunset in Los Alamitos

### Sabbath Worship Speakers

- Jan. 12 Speaker: Pastor J. Lynn Martell
- Jan. 19 Speaker: Pastor Don Vollmer
- Jan. 26 Speaker: Don Yancy
- Feb. 2 Speaker: Pastor J. Lynn Martell
- Feb. 9 Speaker: Pastor J. Lynn Martell
- Feb. 16 Speaker: Pastor Don Vollmer
- Feb. 23 Speaker: Don Yancy

### Special Events

- Jan. 12 Sa 3:00 pm Loma Linda Tour with Richard Schaefer
- 4:30 pm **Vespers at Vollmer's**
- Jan. 13 Su 1:00 pm Health Talk  
Heather Shenkman
- Jan. 27 Su 1:00 pm Health Series (1 of 7)  
"Autoimmune Secrets"
- Feb. 3 Su 1:00 pm Health Series (2 of 7)  
"Autoimmune Secrets"
- Feb. 9 Sa 2:00 pm Health Series (3 of 7)  
"Autoimmune Secrets"
- Feb. 10 Su 4:00 pm **Valentine's Banquet**
- Mar. 3 Sa 2:00 pm Health Series (4 of 7)  
"Autoimmune Secrets"

## STORY TIME

“A ‘God Wink Moment’ with Gloria Gaither”

By James and Judi Woods

Sunday, the fourteenth of October, found my wife, Judi, and I boarding a plane out of Orange County’s John Wayne Airport, that would ultimately take us to my “home church” in Anderson, Indiana, a town of approximately 50,000 people, 30 miles north of Indianapolis. I had been invited to lead a “Festival of Hymns,” featuring a children’s choir, made up of students from the local church school; a school where I had received my elementary education. We were going a week ahead of the festival so as to allow me time to teach the student choirs a few of my hymn arrangements especially appropriate for children’s voices. This was a repeat visit for me; the students and I had worked together before. The kids loved to sing and we both thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to do so again!

Judi and I spent the week as the house guests of Brent and Sandra Schalk, old friends of mine who were enjoying the opportunity of getting to know Judi better. Sandra and I had grown up together in the Anderson Church. We were classmates in the first grade, a close relationship that continued until we graduated from Indiana Academy. Sandra took piano lessons and loved to sing. Her grandmother offered me \$1.00 if I would sing a duet with Sandra for our 8th grade graduation. Never passing up an opportunity to make a buck, I took her up on it. We did it, we enjoyed it, got a lot of positive attention and continued to sing together through our “Academy Years.”

Our hosts for the week live in a large colonial home located on farmland, outside of Anderson, that featured a beautiful lake where large numbers of majestic Canadian geese would stop and rest on their migration flight south, in search of a warmer winter climate. There was also a “picture perfect” winding river to the rear of their property. Add the beauty of magnificent trees, dressed in the vibrant colors of autumn, and you now have the picture of “my Indiana” in the fall.

Judi loved being in Indiana, especially if we could spend sometime visiting the small farming community of Alexandria: population 5,000, ten miles from Anderson. The town is best known today as the home of Bill and Gloria Gaither, well known composers of many of the beautiful and most popular gospel songs in American since the 1960’s. Alexandria is also the site of their large “state of the art” recording studios, their beautiful church, and what interested Judi most: a building that housed Gloria’s Cafe that served delicious “home cooking,” many dishes and desserts made from local recipes of family and friends. Notice the table tucked back in a quiet corner bearing a sign which reads: “Reserved for Gloria and the women of her Bible

Study Group.” The atmosphere is pure, intimate country. The rest of the building features Gloria’s Gift Shop, in the process of being decorated for the Christmas Season.

When you first enter Gloria’s Gift Shop you’re almost overwhelmed by the incredible elegance of gold, silver, crystal, fine china, many elaborately decorated “theme Christmas trees,” interspersed with magnificent, handmade quilts, linen table cloths and napkins, elaborate center pieces, along with a number of beautifully upholstered, hand-carved rocking chairs. Add Gloria’s library, featuring a collection of the finest books in “classic” literature, along with inspirational books by noted authors, including Gloria’s books, most of which, Judi says, have been a tremendous blessing to her through the years! Add to all this: many videos and CDs of the Gaither Music through the years, including the very popular “Family Reunion Series” performed by Bill and Gloria, Sandi Patti, and many of their friends who are also well know gospel recording artists.

Since this was a shared experience, let me invite Judi to continue with our “God Wink” moment with Gloria.

Our first morning began with breakfast at Gloria’s Cafe. Delicious! After breakfast we decided to go our separate ways and check out what interested each of us the most: Jim in the Music Section and me in Gloria’s Library. Jim had gone to the front of the store to make a purchase, when suddenly he returned and excitedly exclaimed “You’re not going to believe this! Quickly, come with me! I want you to meet someone.” After introducing Judi to a remarkable family, I shared this story: “While we were standing in line to make a purchase, the mother turned to me and said “You’re Mr. Woods! You are James Woods! We are from Loma Linda, our children were members of your Loma Linda Academy Choir! Our Son was part of one of your performance trips to Europe! This is unbelievable!” “Yes,” I exclaimed, “It is unbelievable!” We all hugged each other and felt truly blessed to have been reunited is the tiny community of Alexandria, over two thousand miles from Southern California!

“We just came from spending some truly amazing time with Gloria Gaither,” the mother said. She stopped to talk with us while we were taking a tour of their recording Studio. “She was so personable! So warm, so real! She really is the same Gloria Gaither you see in her books!”

At that moment, Jim realized he had to drive quickly back to Anderson to spend the afternoon with his young singers in preparation for the Hymn Festival. “I know I’ll be back, I’ve got come back,” I whispered to myself. “O Lord, I’m so close...I’ve got to meet Gloria!” The employee at the register overheard my “private” prayer. She smiled as she said, “She’ll be in tomorrow!”

Tune in next week when I meet Gloria Gaither! I’ll share our private moments as we laughed, cried, shared stories about our lives as Christian mothers and bonded as “Sisters in Christ.”

## SABBATH SUNSET TIMES

01/12	5:03 pm	01/26	5:16 pm
01/19	5:09 pm	02/02	5:23 pm

## BIRTHDAYS 1/10-1/16

1/11	Adriana Shavlik
1/13	Sam Kaiyanuyan

Let us know if we are missing anyone.

## FINANCES

Tithe Income	\$2,616
Church Budget Income	\$3,047
Budgeted Amount:	\$2,178

YTD totals as of 1/5/19

## WEEK IN PICTURES



Above: Jim Miller and Tim Bui changing lights. Below: Rick Johnson fixing lights

