

West Valley Church of God
P. O. Box 343
San Fernando, CA 91341

Pastors & Elders

Pastor: Ron and Norva Kelly
West Valley Elders
Carlton & Judy Green
Cornell Smith

Choir Thank You



During our luncheon on the last day of 2016 a special "Thank You" cake was presented for all the hard work the Choir has done in serving us throughout the year. **We enjoyed every NOTE!**

Lunch After Services



You are invited to join us for lunch after services!

We would love to meet you and enjoy some healthy and delicious food together. It's a great way to fellowship and get to know each other. Our services begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays (**See address on front page top**).

Editor's Corner

● Submissions for inclusion in "The Vine" are welcome **at any time**. We need your input! Please email to the editor (See right column) - in **10 point type, Arial font**, for easier placement.

Send submissions to:
TheVineEditor@aol.com -
Subject Line: Title of Article. **Time sensitive** submissions due **5th** of month for following month's issue. **News and Inspirational articles welcome any time.**

NOTICE... Many paintings shown in this publication are for sale. Check your old copies. Contact Editor .

The Vine

"I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." **John 15:5**

February 2017

West Valley Church of God -- "Come worship with us..."
Submissions: TheVineEditor@aol.com
We meet at the Congregational Church of Northridge
9659 Balboa Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325
Saturday Service 10:30 A.M. - www.westvalleywvcg.org

As The Deer...

Psalms:42:1: "As the deer panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

...In times of great trouble, as well as in peace, let us be of this attitude, in expectation of our hopes.



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Young Deer - Guache

What Prompts God to Answer Prayer?

Several years ago I wrote an article entitled "When We Pray". Recently, the editor was kind enough to publish that article in this publication.

Again, several years ago, I was walking to the bus stop on

Alameda Street to go home from work in Los Angeles, near the Los Angeles train station.

The light turned green and I stepped onto Seventh Street. As I did so I looked up into the grill of an oncoming car careening down Seventh Street with the screech of tires, the crunch of metal and tinkling of glass rushing toward me on the wrong side of the street.

Upcoming Events

- Bible Studies, Letters and other Events...see Weekly Bulletin and Bulletin Board.



Inside This Issue

- As The Deer... Cover
- When We Pray - Part II 1 - 2
- Goals 3
- Choir Thank You Back Cover
- Lunch After Services Back Cover
- Pastors and Elders Back Cover
- Editor's Corner Back Cover

As I looked up **from the opposite corner**, waiting for the light to change, I heard the crashing of metal as the car slammed into opposing traffic.

I had no consciousness of time or fear...or anything. I was simply a pedestrian standing safely on the other side of the street observing a traffic accident.

Yesterday (Wednesday, after the previously published article), I

Continued on Page 2

Illustration © Sharon Mills 2017

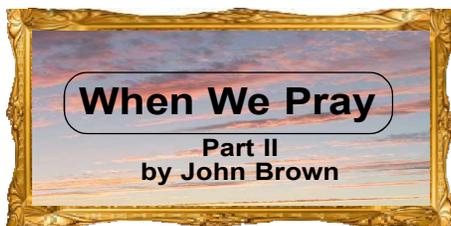
"When We Pray - Part II" Continued

went to the doctor's office with my wife. While there, I removed my sweater because it was warm in the office. As we were leaving, I was putting my sweater on and my wife said, "Here, you had better put your glasses back in your pocket", as she picked them up off the floor.

We went on to the grocery store to get a few groceries and I waited in the car while my wife went in to get a few things. While sitting there, I reached in my pocket to take out my glasses and they weren't there. While sitting there, waiting for my wife to come out, I searched the car, my pockets, everywhere I could think, even the unimaginable, with no results.

When wife got back to the car we went back to the doctor's office and she went in and asked about them. She came out and reported that they weren't in the office. In the meantime I had checked around the car (we had gotten the same parking spot), and there was nothing. So I resigned myself to a new pair of glasses. As we were backing out of the parking spot, I "happened" to look up and there, sitting on the trunk of the car that had been parked next to us, were my glasses.

When we pray...do "good things" happen if we do and "bad things" if we don't? Do we know of all the things that we should really



pray about...or **is it possible that God pays more attention to our needs than we do to Him and His desires for us, that are really for our benefit?**

Do we always have a chance to pray about a situation? If not, how can we prepare for eventualities?

I went through the Bible and **wrote down a long list of scriptures** that promise so many of the things that God has said He will do for us, (then after reflection I

scratched them and will give you the two scriptures on which I have based my life for the last 50+ years, **by which I know He cannot fail us.**

1 Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but *God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able*; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

2 Cor 12:9, 10 9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong. (in Him).**

GOALS

This is a story of a little boy who grew up in the 1930's during the Great Depression in the United States of America. There were people standing in soup lines waiting to be fed; wealthy people who became impoverished overnight; ordinary people who suffered great personal loss.

There were dusty, desolate lands without crops and soon there would be another war. But this little boy was black. His humble beginnings and difficult circumstances were just the beginning of a life that God would touch in a very special way.

Suffice it to say there were struggles upon struggles, many challenges and hard choices to make; punishments and fears too difficult to bear at times. This child was to become a man at an early age. It's a long story. At some point he decided that he needed to set goals for himself in order to succeed, so in 1978 at midlife, he wrote a list...and read it daily for strength and inspiration, depending upon God and



what God had instilled in him. The list follows:

1. **TO BE A MAN OF CHARACTER:** Fear of God-deep respect for God, Love, Joy, Peace, Gentleness, Longsuffering, Faith, Meekness, Temperance – as expressed in the TEN COMMANDMENTS.

2. **Wisdom:** Knowing and doing what is right (in God's sight). Seeing things as they are.

3. **Ability to concentrate on a subject totally.**

4. **Ability to not waste time – (use wisely).** Power to stop putting off things.

5. **To be in good health – stay in good health.**

6. **Courage:** I face all my problems with great courage and thus solve them much more easily.

7. **Perseverance:** I am easily able to persevere and finish any task I undertake.

WHAT DID GOD DO WITH THIS LITTLE BOY?

He became a strong and loving husband of one wife, and father of six God-fearing, intelligent and successful children. He wore a uniform in war, then became a "conscientious objector", trusting God to help him raise his family. He came to be the Director of Nutrition of a large religious organization, continuing his education, earning a PhD, and was offered a top job and retired from UCLA Medical Center. He became a Speaking Elder in his church, and is greatly sought after as a motivational speaker for many organizations and companies across the United States and abroad. He wrote a list of goals and read it daily; he prayed; he trusted God and changed lives.