

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

Hymns

- Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn.....The Church is One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn..... There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
- Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
- The Shopper's Hymn.....Sweet Bye and Bye
- The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
- The Massage Therapist's Hymn.....He Touched Me
- The Doctor's Hymn.....The Great Physician

AND.....For Those Who Speed on The Highway

- 45 MPH.....God Will Take Care of You
- 65 MPH.....Nearer My God To Thee
- 85 MPH.....This World is Not My Home
- 95 MPH.....Lord, I'm Coming Home
- 100 MPH.....Precious Memories

Thank You for a Sense of Humor, Lord, Give me the Grace to see a Joke

Sent in by Cornell Smith

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 .



"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**

May 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.westvalleywgc.org

CHOOSING

"Choice: Reaction or Response"
from *Getting the Best from Yourself and Others*
by Julie Davis-Colan and Lee J. Colan

~~~ Sent in by Susan Thompson

The power of choice is one of the greatest gifts we are given. Although we make many choices every hour of the day, we rarely make neutral choices. Each choice has a positive or negative consequence for us at some level.



Our attitude toward life is the most important choice we make! Let's look at why such a simple choice—embracing a positive or negative attitude—is more challenging than it appears for many people.

Just think of the last time you were in deep thought about your plans for the evening while driving home from work. As you pull into your driveway you wonder to yourself, "How did I get home?" The car seemed to practically drive itself. Driving is a relatively complex task, requiring many choices along the way—turn right, turn left, slow down, stop, change lanes. Still, driving home can be successfully performed almost subconsciously. So, consider the multitude of much smaller choices we make each day that we don't really think about:

**Upcoming Events**

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



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*"Choosing" Continued*

waking up, brushing our teeth, saying "good morning" to a colleague, eating our lunch, performing a repetitive job duty, and so on. Subconscious actions are useful most of the time, but we must also consciously choose our attitude to control our results. Our ability to choose is a gift, but it is also a huge responsibility. No matter what today's "it's not my fault" culture encourages, we are all ultimately responsible for our own choices. In fact, we like to write the word responsibility as response-ability. As humans, we have the unique ability to respond.

Here's a scenario repeated daily. Family dinners are important at the Smith house. Jim and Jane Smith and their two children (John, age three, and Janie, age four) just sat down at the table. Before the first bite of dinner is enjoyed, John spills his milk and it goes everywhere.

A reaction to this event: "Not again, John! Every time we eat, this happens. Think, son, think! Do you want to eat in your room from now on?" A response to this event: "Uh-oh, John. Let's get a sponge and clean this up so you can eat your dinner."

When you react, you make a purely emotional and subconscious decision. Often, because of how your experiences and prior choices have programmed your subconscious mind, your reactions do not help you achieve the best results.

On the other hand, when you respond to a situation, you make a constructive and conscious decision. That's why there are emergency response teams, not emergency reaction teams.

When you simply react, your emotional instinct is in control, with little thought of the long-range consequences.

When you respond, your brain is fully engaged and your self-awareness is high. You have the long-term consequences in mind.

We all experience plenty of negative situations and people. **Choosing to respond instead of react** helps positively orchestrate our attitudes—and our lives.

**Belated "Thank You"**

Late but not least, a belated "Thank You" for special music in March, performed by Edit Ancona (1st Soprano), Jenni Asher (2nd Soprano), and Susan Thompson (Alto). A most lovely rendition of **"Sabbath Prayer"** from *Fiddler On The Roof* -- accompanied by Margie Gordon on the piano.



Detail: Blue Painted China © Sharon Mills 2017

**Happy Mother's Day - May 14th!**

**God's Generosity**

**How will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32**



**God's Love**

**He created you in His image.**

**He knew you before you were born.**

**He made plans for you before the world was created.**

**He promised to never leave you nor forsake you.**

**He miraculously created life in a virgin, and proclaimed this child to be His own son.**

**He was well pleased with His son, created for the purpose your salvation.**

**He gave His only begotten and beloved son for your life, because of His love for you.**

**He forgave your sins for all time, so you could exist with Him in purity forever.**

**He knows your every thought and need.**

**He is victorious over death and holds eternity in his hand.**

**He is coming to be with you again.**

The fact that God deals with His children on the basis of grace without regard to merit or demerit is a staggering concept. It's opposed to almost everything we've been taught about life. We've been generally conditioned to think that if we work hard and pay our dues, we'll be rewarded in proportion to our work: "You do so much, you deserve so much."

But God's grace doesn't operate on a reward for works basis. It's much better than that. God is generous beyond all measure or comparison. The Scripture says, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son," and Paul spoke of this as God's "inexpressible gift." God's inexpressible generosity however does not stop at saving us; it provides for all our needs and blessings throughout our entire lives. As Paul said in Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?" Paul used the argument of the greater to the lesser to teach us God's generosity. No blessing we'll ever receive can possibly compare with the gift of God's son dying for us. God demonstrated His gracious generosity to the ultimate at the cross. And Paul based the assurance that we can expect God to meet all our other needs throughout life on the fact that God has already met our greatest need.

*From Transforming Grace by Jerry Bridges*

~~~ Sharon Mills