

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

Quotes

Your old friends - seize every opportunity to meet up with your friends. Such opportunities will become rare as time goes by.



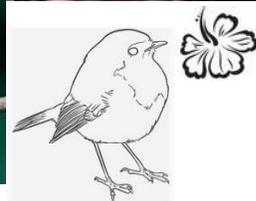
After middle age - Do not regret!



Enjoy your life while you can



Sent in by Jane Hickok



"I learned much from my teachers, more from my books, and most from my troubles."
~~Author Unknown



"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."
~~Author Unknown

"Life is a series of punches. It presents a lot of challenges. It presents a lot of hardship, but the people that are able to take those punches and able to move forward are the ones that really do have a lot of success and have a lot of joy in their life and have a lot of stories to tell, too." ~Josh Turner

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." ~Henry Ford

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."
~~ Theodore Roosevelt

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**

July 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

Being Fruitful

Insofar as God initially created Adam as a (perfect) man and in His (God's) own image ~ what does that mean? We have God-given abilities as part of His full intent for us all. We have been created flesh, spirit and mind.

Being fruitful then, according to God's will for us, would necessarily encompass all three of our intrinsic attributes, would it not?

Most often, as mature Christians, we think of *spiritual* fruit. The *physical* part we have mastered. Now how



about our *minds*? Formal education is just the beginning.

Imagine this. I mean, literally *imagine*. That is the magic ingredient to our mental growth. Without it, Leonardo Da Vinci could not have envisioned "*The Last Supper*" and would never have been able to design an early flying apparatus. As one of history's greatest thinkers, Albert Einstein would not have discovered previously unthinkable truths; not without using his vivid imagination.

God has built into us another attribute ~ Hope.

Without hope, we may not have a chance to "see" beyond ourselves. *To imagine* requires hope.

Without hope, we may never dare to posit the "impossible thought". But, it is the *impossible thought* which becomes the fuel that enables us to grasp what we had not understood previously.

Like many now famous "inventors" (*actually, they are discoverers, not inventors*), we may fail many more times before we succeed. However, I believe you will agree that their

Upcoming Events

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



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"Being Fruitful" Continued

efforts were not wasted, nor the end result futile.

Could we ever have imagined the universe as we now know it~ without using our curiosity? Curiosity is simply hope and imagination put to good use.

Have you ever said to yourself, "I have nothing to do; I feel bored"? There is *always* something to do! If not physically, then surely using our minds, imagination and hopes to open up the "world within" which can enable us to see more clearly the



"world around us". That includes our creative abilities. Look around you. One cannot help but notice the proliferation of new ideas, clever time-saving inventions constantly put forth by regular people just seeing things differently.

Don't you think you're creative? How about that time you had a big leak in your plumbing, and after turning off the water, you looked for a big towel to soak up all the water? Too simple, right? But yes! ~~~You were being "creative".

God placed part of His *mind* in us, and some portion of His *creative ability* for *amazingly good, positive, hopeful and productive purposes*. You are a solution-finder by nature. It is part of God's plan for you. So you see, far greater things than this are in store for you in the future He has planned. Can you imagine the possibilities?

~~~ Sharon Mills

## Signs of The Times

**Our Phones** - Wireless  
**Cooking** - Fireless  
**Cars** - Keyless  
**Food** - Fatless  
**Tires** - Tubeless  
**Dress** - Sleeveless  
**Youth** - Jobless  
**Leaders** - Shameless  
**Relationships** - Meaningless  
**Attitudes** - Careless  
**Babies** - Fatherless-  
*(or so you would think)*  
**Feelings** - Heartless  
**Education** - Valueless  
**Children** - Mannerless  
**We are** - SPEECHLESS

## Choose Gratitude

There are a group of people who are unhappy no matter what they have. The Psalmist shows us how to overcome an ungrateful attitude by cultivating a spirit of thanksgiving. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Thinking and thanking go hand in hand. Memory is a catalyst for worship. An old hymn declares, "Count your blessings, name them one by one... See what God has done." The Psalmist encourages us to do three things: first, think about what God has given us-His forgiveness, healing, protection, redemption, love, and compassion. Second, think about what God has not given us-the punishment our sins deserve. Third, think about what God is yet going to give us. "From everlasting to everlasting the



Good leaders abhor wrongdoing of all kinds; sound leadership has a moral foundation.  
 Proverbs 16:12

Integrity is the foundation upon which many other qualities are built, such as respect, dignity, and trust. If that foundation of integrity is weak or fundamentally flawed, then being a person of influence becomes impossible.

That's why it's crucial to maintain integrity by taking care of the little things. Ethical principles are not flexible. A little white lie is still a lie. Theft is that-whether it's \$1, \$1000, or \$1 million. Integrity

commits itself to character over personal gain, to people over things, to service over power, to principle over convenience, to the long view over the immediate.

Any time you break a moral principle, you create a small crack in the foundation of your integrity. And when times get tough, it becomes harder to act with integrity, not easier. Character isn't created in a crisis; it only comes to light. Everything you have done in the past-and the things you have neglected to do-come to a head when you're under pressure.

*From: Becoming a Person of Influence by John C. Maxwell*

## Pentecost Weekend



Last month, Singers Edit Ancona, Susan Thompson, Rob and Randal Gordon provided us with a beautiful rendition of "**Instruments Of Your Peace**". We also enjoyed a fabulous dinner at The Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City, with a view of the pond.



"Choose Gratitude" Continued

Lord's love is with those who fear Him." God accepts you when you trust in Christ's performance, not your own so each morning look in the mirror and say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." *From The Word for You Today*

~~~ Sent in by Susan Thompson