

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

Pastors & Elders

Pastor: Wayne & Patty Mitchell
West Valley Elders
Carlton & Judy Green
Cornell Smith

Quotes

"The next time you feel slightly uncomfortable with the pressure in your life, remember no pressure, no diamonds. Pressure is a part of success." ~ Eric Thomas

"Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same."
~~ Francesca Reigler

"Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

Maybe making a fortune isn't all that it's cracked up to be. Maybe we can even identify with the profound words of the contemporary author Emile Henry Gauvrey: "I was part of that strange race of people aptly described as spending their lives doing things they detest to make money they don't want, to buy things they don't need, to impress people they dislike."

"Hate. It has caused a lot of problems in this world but has not solved one yet."
~~ Maya Angelou

As It Is Written



Psalms 25:9: The meek will he guide in judgment.

Proverbs 3:34 He giveth grace unto the lowly.

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**

December 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

For REAL

What does it mean in everyday life that God is our Father? Here are five fatherly responsibilities that God has assumed toward His children.



God provides for us. "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19



God protects us. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth much more than sparrows" Matthew 10:29-31

Upcoming Events

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

Inside This Issue

- For REAL Cover
- Under Construction 2
- Socks / Hope Springs... 2-3
- Judge Ye Not 3
- Treasures in Heaven 3
- Quotes Back Cover
- As It Is Written Back Cover
- Pastors and Elders Back Cover
- Editor's Corner Back Cover

God encourages us. "You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them, and You listen to their cry" Psalm 10:17

God comforts us. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

God disciplines us. "Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his Holiness" Hebrews 12:10

There are times when it does not seem as if God is doing any of these things. There are times when it seems as if He has forsaken us. At such times we need to lay hold of such promises as "never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" Hebrews 13:5. God in His own inscrutable way is always at work to fulfill his role as our perfect heavenly Father.

The Gospel for Real Life
By Jerry Bridges

Sent in by Susan Thompson

Under Construction

Lily Tomlin once said, "The road to success is always under construction".

I think it was meant to be funny... but after giving it some more thought, it seems that there is more than one way to view this.

On the one hand, a road under construction may be unpassable ... or partially so; at the very least, an inconvenience. We can think that using such a road is impossible.

On another hand, such a road may offer a few unforeseen alternate options... or challenges if you will. Opportunities for change, or a few other possible ways to our destination.



Then again, that same road is being improved for future use. Any temporary pitfalls are being repaired, healed, corrected... in most cases, an ongoing project; the intent of which is a better condition ultimately.

In the same way, looking at our lives and circumstances, we have a choice regarding the way we view what is going on with the "road" we are on. It is our option of "free choice". So, whatever the stage of our highway construction, beware of "road rage". Frustration is part of life, but again, we have a sure destination to keep in mind which, while waiting patiently, can give us much comfort and joy in the journey.

Inspired by a quote sent in by Jane Hickok ~~~ Sharon Mills



Socks For The Homeless

Just a small part of the virtual mountain of socks that have been donated by our congregation,

for the homeless, as we have done for a number of years now. There will be a lot more warm feet out there!

Thanks to all who took a large portion of their personal time to organize, collect and distribute these goods so greatly needed.

Hope Springs Eternal

"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." Proverbs 23:18

Never underestimate the power of hope. Winston Churchill was once asked by a reporter what his country's greatest weapon was against Hitler's Nazi regime. Without pausing for a moment he said: "It was what England's greatest weapon has always been - hope."

People will continue working, struggling, and trying if they have hope. Hope lifts people's morale. It improves their self image. It re-energizes them. It raises their expectations. We need to hold hope high, to instill it in people. People will have hope only if we give it to them. And we will have

Treasures in Heaven

~~~ A Reminder

hope to give if we maintain the right attitude. Battle of Verdun hero Marshall Foch observed, "There are no hopeless situations: there are only men who have grown hopeless about them." Maintaining hope comes from seeing the potential in every situation and staying positive despite circumstances.

From "Developing the Leaders Around You"  
By John C. Maxwell



## Judge Ye Not

I was shocked, confused, and bewildered when I entered Heaven's doors.

Not by the beauty of it all, not by the lights or it's decor. But it was the folks, who made me shudder and gasp. The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics and the trash. There stood the guy who stole my lunch money--twice. Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice. And then there was Ted whom I thought was rotting away in Hell, who was sitting pretty on Could Nine, and looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "Hey, what's the deal, why are all these sinners here? God must have made a mistake? And why are they so quiet, so somber, please give me a clue."

"Hush Child", He whispered, "they are all in shock, because no one was expecting you."

*Judge Ye Not, for we are all God's children.*

Sent in by Carlton Green

M't:5:1: And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:  
M't:5:2: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,  
M't:5:3: Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
M't:5:4: Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.  
M't:5:5: Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.  
M't:5:6: Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.  
M't:5:7: Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.  
M't:5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.  
M't:5:9: Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.  
M't:5:10: Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
M't:5:11: Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.  
M't:5:12: Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.  
M't:5:13: Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.  
M't:5:14: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.