

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

CELEBRATIONS



December 9, 2017 we celebrated and thanked **Ron and Norva Kelly** for their longer than anticipated pastoral service to our congregation. Ron Guizado was "Master of Ceremonies" and

gave a wonderful and entertaining video presentation of their lives from college to the present. Bob Ancona performed special music on guitar for the occasion. Andrea Zima made a special card, which we all signed, and was presented, together with gifts from all of us, by Edit Ancona, Jane Hickok, Carlton Green. We enjoyed Special Music from our choir: "Love One Another".



Our new pastor and his wife, **Wayne and Patty Mitchell** were formally installed, with laying on of hands, and presented with gifts of welcome from all of us. All in all, a busy day!



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**

January 2018

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

All Things

Ro:8:28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Does this mean all in our lives ends up being happiness and rainbows? Well...Yes and No.

news". How are we to reconcile the heinous deeds of this life to the verse in Romans 8:28?

Ro:8:6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Life and peace is our intended inheritance.



Ro:8:5: For they that

[walk] after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that [walk] after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. If you believe in Christ, you are *led* by the Spirit. How closely you choose to follow determines the extent of your life and peace.

For many, it has been thought that the truth of this verse was proven by the good outcome of whatever we hope for in this life. However, keen observation of the facts will reveal that mankind has a violent history, and we are still waiting for the "good

Ro:8:9: But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Upcoming Events

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



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Ro:8:10: And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. It is God's righteousness, not ours.

Ro:8:14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they

Happy New Year

are the sons of God.

Ro:8:15: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Ro:8:16: The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Ro:8:17: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Ro:8:31: What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Ro:8:32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Ro:8:33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Ro:8:34: Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Ro:8:35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Ro:8:36: As it is written, For

thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Ro:8:37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Ro:8:38: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Ro:8:39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

...and so we see:

Ro:8:1: There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Ro:8:2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

And here is where the rainbow arrives. Our hopes; the promises we have waited for, all the "good news" about all things working for our benefit -- no matter how much struggle and pain in the interim -- is finally realized.

It is the END of all things and their workings that brings our reward.

A timeless truth in a timeless reality...our place in eternity.

Discipline

Do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. Hebrews 12:5

Sent in by Susan Thompson

The Puritan Samuel Bolton (1606 to 1654) wrote, "God has thoughts of love in all He does to His people. The ground of His dealings with us is love (though the occasion may be sin), the manner of His dealings is love, and the purpose of His dealings is love. He has regard, in all, to our good here, to make us partakers of His holiness, and to our glory hereafter to make us partakers of His glory."

When the writer of Hebrews told us not to lightly regard the Lord's discipline or be weary by His reproof, his purpose was to encourage us. A good part of that encouragement must come from the realization that the hardships we encounter come from a God who is not only in sovereign control of every circumstance of our lives, but who also loves us, and who deals with us only on the basis of love. He's not only the sovereign ruler of His universe but also our Heavenly Father through the Lord Jesus Christ.

From The Discipline of Grace
By Jerry Bridges

Miracles

We know of at least one miracle which occurred during the recent fires in California... that of a house being spared, while neighbors' homes went up in flames, but I am sure that many more miracles went unreported.

While we pray for relief from the drought, any rain we have gotten has dried up in intense summer temperatures, causing even more potential danger. What we need is a balance and coordination of nature to bring relief. Ultimately, a balance and coordination with God and man is the final solution.

As God's people, we are to pray for this final solution.

2Ch:7:14: *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Our need for healing is more than land....it is all encompassing. Let's pray for God's peace, balance, and will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. This, after all, is the intent of our creator. It is the final hope of mankind. The destiny planned for us from before time began.

