

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

Pastors & Elders

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

Quotes

~Thanks to Jane Hickok and Susan Thompson

This is really good for meditation... "The touchstone of moral growth is a progressive displacement of reaction by action."
--- R. S. Silverstein



There's a fine line between persistence and obstinacy. The key is to choose a problem that's worth persistent effort."
--- Dr. J. Folkman

"When a person is in special need of God's love, God sends them an opportunity to show love and give to someone else."
--- R. Nachman

" Summer is the annual permission slip to be lazy. To do nothing and have it count for something. To lie in the grass and count the stars. To sit on a branch and study the clouds. " --
- Regina Brett

"Ten friends is a stimulating group; ten random people is an annoyance; ten enemies is a mob." ~
Unknown

Peace is a duet not a solo. It cannot be made by one side alone. If it could, it would have been made long ago. --- Johnathan Sachs

"Conceptions without experience are void; experience without conceptions is blind."
--- Albert Einstein

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school."
--- Albert Einstein

" It is the true duty of every man to promote the happiness of his fellow creatures to the utmost of his power. "
--- William Wilberforce

Living Waters



La:3:22: It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

La:3:23: They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

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

November 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.westvalleywvcg.org

Lessons From The Tree

Sometimes we look at a tree and only see something in our way – blocking the view. We need to take a closer look at the sequoia tree and learn some lessons from their survival.

Giant sequoias have very specific climate requirements; they grow naturally only in a narrow 260-mile strip of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, at 5,000 to 7,000 feet in elevation.

They can live up to 3,000 years and are only considered OLD after 1500 years. We think

people are old when they are 30 (especially when we are 10)!

Their branches can be up to 9 feet in diameter and their bark is up to 3 feet thick. This is an important fact when they face the fire! Their bark protects them using tannic acid in the tree and they can actually smolder for up to a year after a forest fire. How long do we suffer after a severe trial?



The sequoia can grow over 300 feet

tall, but their wood is brittle and doesn't make good lumber – this has spared them from being completely logged. They are the largest living trees. The Hyperion tree is 379.1 feet tall, while the General Sherman is the largest and has a 102-foot circumference. It is 275 feet tall and has branches about 7 feet in diameter. General Grant is the second largest tree. The President tree is estimated to have over 2 billion leaves and is estimated

Upcoming Events

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



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Lessons From The Tree (cont.)

at 3240 years old. They are now a protected species. There are some older trees such as the Alerce which is estimated to be nearly 5000 years old. Visiting the Garden of Gethsemane you can see the same olive trees that Jesus walked around. It is amazing how finite we are when compared with the tree!



fiondata.com

Sequoias are hardy; fungal rot, beetles and fire-wasps are just some of their problems. They just keep growing at the top toward the sun. Their roots can extend over 200 feet from the trunk of the tree. Giant sequoias reproduce by seeds which forest fires help open. Then the cones can grow from the burnt, bare soil. They don't grow well on soil that is trampled by feet! We

need to grow toward Christ and have our roots spread well so that we can withstand the wind and the rain. We need to keep our soil fertile so that the Word of God can grow in our hearts. We can withstand fiery trials if we are looking up and learn the lessons from the sequoias.

When a tree dies, it falls and is used by the other plants and animals in the forest by providing nutrients and shelter. Just as those who grow older and die still provide examples and encouragement for those of us who remain. They are the proof that if we stand fast and endure to the end, even our death can be a blessing.

Facts from treehugger.com~~
Submitted by Lil Dratler

The Geese and the Snowstorm

A Story of Salvation
-- Author Unknown

There was once a man who did not believe in either the virgin birth of Christ nor the spiritual meaning behind it, and was skeptical even about God. He and his family lived in a farm community. His wife was a devout believer and diligently raised her children in the faith. He sometimes gave her a hard time about her belief and mocked her religious observances.

"It's all nonsense -- why would

God lower himself and become a human like us? It's such a ridiculous story," he said.

One snowy day, she and the children left for church while he stayed home. After they had departed, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening.

Then he heard a loud thump, something hitting against the window... And, still another thump. He looked outside but could not see anything. So he

ventured outside for a better view. In the field near his house he saw, of all the strangest things, a flock of geese. They were apparently flying to look for a warmer area down south, but they had been caught in the snowstorm. The storm had become too blinding and violent for the geese to fly or see their way. They were stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter, unable to do more than flutter their wings and fly in aimless circles. He had compassion for them and wanted to help them. He thought to himself, the barn would be a great place for them to stay. It is warm and safe;



surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he opened the barn doors for them.

He waited, watching them, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. Nevertheless, they did not notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. He moved closer toward them to get their attention, but they just moved

away from him out of fear.

He went into the house and came back with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread trail to the barn. They still did not catch on.

Starting to get frustrated, he went over and tried to shoo them toward the barn. They panicked and scattered into every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where there was warmth, safety, and shelter. Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me?"

Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm? How can I possibly get them into the one place to save them?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just would not follow a human. He said to himself, "How can I possibly save them? The only way would be for me to become like those geese. If only I could become like one of them. Then I could save them.

They would follow me and I would lead them to safety."

At that moment, he stopped and considered what he had said. The words reverberated in his mind: If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them. Then, at last, he understood God's heart towards mankind... and he fell on his knees in the snow.

