



The Shepherd's Voice

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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During my study leave this last month at the West Coast Presbyterian Pastors' Conference I learned about the work of the Early Church from Dr. Jerry Sitsler, a professor of Church history at Whitworth College. He introduced us to the 'catechism' (training course) used in the early years of Christianity to prepare new believers to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

These Christians lived in a difficult environment: the Roman government was hostile to them and so were the Jews. Christians were persecuted by a variety of the emperors over three centuries. The Jews joined that hostility. Both groups considered Christians to be 'atheists' because they didn't believe in the many gods of their Greco-Roman neighbors, nor did they hold to the strict Jewish God of the Old Testament who was known to them as a holy God with obedience as their means to relate to Him. To both groups they were considered a danger to be removed quickly and completely.

Soon the Christians began to consider themselves members of a 'Third Race.' They neither believed in a plethora of gods nor in the one God found in only one form; they knew Jesus Christ, God's Son had come to find, to rescue, and to journey with them.

So the question arose, how does one live as a believer in a world which is alien to the concept of a loving, merciful, and yet holy God? Over several centuries training methods were developed to instruct people in their faith, their behavior, and their understanding of their responsibility to the new community to which they belonged. In other words they were taught how

to BELIEVE to BEHAVE to BELONG

This worked so very well that those early, persecuted Christians 'out-lived, out-loved, and out-died' their neighbors in such a powerful manner they changed history forever.

Although the country in which we live is not persecuting us, in many ways our culture is. Greed is not only rampant and the effects of that upon the weak and the poor among us appalling, there is great admiration for those who accumulate enormous amounts of money and possessions. Giving to others, living unselfishly, dying so another might have a better life is incomprehensible!

Our children are becoming increasingly self-centered: 'what I think, what I want' is the mantra by which they live. We Christians are considered fools! To help us become clearer of our lives as members of a 'Third Race' I have included here a description of Christians in the second century

"Christians are not distinguished from other men by country, language, nor by the customs which they observe. They do not inhabit cities of their own, use a particular way of speaking, nor lead a life marked out by any curiosity. They live in their own countries, but they do so as those who are just passing through. They love all men and are persecuted by all. They are poor, yet make many rich. They lack everything, yet they overflow in everything. They are dishonored, and yet in their very dishonor they are glorified; they are reviled but blessed; they are insulted and repay the insult with honor; they do good, yet are punished as evildoers; when punished, they rejoice as if raised from the dead. They are assailed by the Jews as barbarians; they are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to give any reason for their hatred."

I think these early sisters and brothers sound like wonderful people...and we can be like them and bless our world as they blessed and changed it so completely! Let us begin believing, behaving, and belonging in such blessed ways through the power of the Holy Spirit as well.

Pastor Nancy Moore

上個月我在西海岸長老會傳道人聚會的學假中，我從 Dr. Jerry Sitsler 學習到初代教會的工作，Dr. Jerry Sitsler 是 Whitworth 學院的教授，他教導我們有關基督教在初期時的“要理問答”，教會如何預備慕道友成為耶穌基督的門徒。

初代教會的基督徒活在艱難的環境當中，那時的羅馬政府以及週邊的猶太人都敵視他們，有三百年的時間，他們遭受到不同的羅馬皇帝殘酷的迫害，羅馬人及猶太人都認為基督徒是“無神論者”，他們不相信鄰近國家的神，羅馬人更不願意像猶太人一樣，嚴守舊約的律例來信從上帝。羅馬人認為基督徒及猶太人都是危險人物，應該立刻剷除他們。

很快地，基督徒們領悟到他們是“第三個族群”，他們不像羅馬人相信眾神，也不像猶太人一樣，相信只有一個位格的神；基督徒知道耶穌基督是上帝的兒子，祂來尋找，拯救並和基督徒們一生同行。

基督徒們發現的一個難題就是如何一個不認識這位慈愛，憐憫又聖潔的真神的環境中，做一個忠實的信徒。在接續的幾百年當中，他們慢慢地發展出不同的材料與方法來教導與訓練信徒，有關他們的信仰，行為以及對所屬新團體的責任，簡言之，這些教導有三個要項，就是**信仰**，**行為**及**歸屬**。這些訓練的方法是如此的有效，以致於初期又受迫害的基督徒的生命，愛心及不懼死的精神征服了他們週圍的人，力量之大，他們從此改變了世界的歷史。

今天我們所居住的美國雖然沒有迫害我們，但是我們的文化在多方面迫害我們，好比說貪婪的犯濫，以致於造成對弱勢及貧窮者的衝擊是嚇人的。社會大眾對擁有財富的羨慕，認為施捨他人，不私自地為別人犧牲是不可思議的，我們的小孩變得很自我中心，生活準則以“我所想以及我所要的”為中心，人們認為基督徒是愚蠢的人！下面我分享一段在第二世紀時對基督徒的描寫，幫助大家更清楚我們當如何生活，成為“第三族群”的一個成員。

“基督徒不是以國籍，語言或他們所守的規矩來區別，他們不一定有自己居住的城市，或用特別的方式來說話，或有什麼特別的生活方式；他們住在自己原來居住的國家，但卻像是旅居者，他們愛眾人但卻遭受他們的迫害，他們是貧窮卻叫多人富足，他們常常缺乏，卻是時常豐富；他們遭受到攻擊，卻常常在攻擊之後得到榮耀；他們被辱罵卻得到祝福；他們被羞辱卻以尊重來回報；行善事卻遭到懲罰；遭到責罰還能像從死裏復活一樣；猶太人像野蠻人般地攻擊他們；希臘人迫害他們，但是這些恨惡基督徒的人卻無法解釋他們恨惡的理由。”

我以為這些早期的弟兄姊妹們是美好的族群，我們可以學像他們來祝福我們的週遭，以致於改變這世界；讓我們也用就是**信仰**，**行為**及**歸屬**，藉著聖靈的大能來祝福別人。

莫南西牧師

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The stewardship committee has been very busy with their various responsibilities. These responsibilities include finance, personnel and building and grounds. The finances, including operations and special funds are reviewed every month to make sure our expenses do not exceed our income or to determine if some action should be taken to increase income or cut spending in some way.

Our personnel committee includes hiring staff or contractors to support our church. We also evaluate personnel working for Shepherd of the Valley. We are currently interviewing for a potential intern for our youth ministry. Interviewers include chairpersons of the various committee. This person will have other duties other than youth as seen necessary by our pastors.

Building and Grounds is a big responsibility as our facilities must be kept clean and presentable to the public. There seems to be something always needing repair. We have a good work party the first Saturday of each month headed by Jeff Crandell. We ask all of you to come out and lend a hand with the work party. We have great fellowship and sometimes we have a breakfast or lunch. There is always work to be done.

財務及人事委員會

財務及人事委員會一直在忙著各種責任，包括財務、人事、建築物及設施。財務方面包含營運財務和特別項目基金，每月審核以確保量入為出並決定是否要增加收入或減少支出。

人事委員會工作包括雇用職員或外包合約工作者來維護教會，我們也評價牧谷教會的工作人員。目前我們正在面談一位青年團契的神學院實習生，面談由不同委員會主席主持。這位實習生也可能負責由牧師們指派青年團契以外的其他工作。

建築物及設施是一個極大的責任，我們要確保設施整潔，適合公眾使用。似乎總有些部份需要修理。每月第一週六工作日我們有 Jeff Crandell 義務帶領的工作團隊，我們請求您們都能為工作團隊出一份力。我們有很好的團契，有時還有早餐或午餐可享用。總是有許多工作需要完成的。



Sermon Reflection -Thy Kingdom Come

Eloisa San Miguel

Reverend Moore's message last Sunday, May 29th struck me as giving directions that would lead to a pathway to the coming Kingdom of God. At first, it seemed like it was an arduous and difficult journey, yet as she went on, it could be a simple task. i.e. we don't need to be the best in our profession to preach the good news, nor possess a nice and clean home to invite people to share the news of God's kingdom. The humility and sincerity of our hearts and spirit will be the shining star that would lead people to anticipate the Kingdom of God, our Father.

證道回應 - 祢的國臨到

Eloisa San Miguel 長老

莫南西牧師在五月二十九日上主日的證道告訴我們有關上帝國的降臨，我們當如何走在上帝國的方向；乍聽之下，那似乎是辛苦又困難的旅程，但是牧師繼續解釋，這可以是輕鬆的事，比方說，我們不一定要是最成功的專業人才才可以傳福音，也不一定要有華麗又清潔的房子才可以邀請人到家裡分享福音。最重要的是我們要有一顆謙卑又誠摯的心靈，它會成為一個明亮的星，引領人們期盼天父上帝國的來到。

華語堂春季退修會

(本會訊)本會華語堂,於五月十三日起假 Lake Arrowhead 箭頭湖舉行三天的春季退修會,研習主題是”如何禱告與神溝通”.與會人員稱讚此次聚會,讓其屬靈生活更加豐富.

此次退修會是在 San Bernardino 山中的箭頭湖所舉行的,大家都很感謝英文堂 Nancy 牧師,提供其私人的木屋,作為聚會場地.該地環境優雅松樹扶疏,吸引棲息在加拿大南部,喜好堅果的藍色鳥 Blue Jay 前來覓食,美麗的身影令人驚艷.大伙兒遠離市囂,在那兒共同生活了三天,互相討論研習屬靈的議題.劉惠霞姐妹提出急迫性的禱告經驗;馬政雄弟兄則將禱告與閱讀聖經列為日必行的兩件事,因為神會透過聖經的話語來回應我們的禱告,更何況閱讀聖經會讓我們行為不偏離正道,心情常喜樂.彭牧師則勉勵地說:禱告內容通常包含有讚美,感謝認罪和祈求,且以敬虔的心和靈與神說話溝通,不在意其方式和說得好或不好;此次退修會在 15 日下午三時圓滿結束.

MANDARIN GROUP RETREAT

The Mandarin group spent three days in retreat at Lake Arrowhead May 13 to 15. The theme of the discussion was ‘How to pray and to communicate with God’. The participants enjoyed this retreat and felt it had enriched their spiritual life with the Lord.

We are grateful for Pastor Nancy and Stan Moore who allowed us to use their vacation home. It is a beautiful house atop the mountain surrounded by pine trees. It attracted many Blue Jays coming from southern Canada. We are so excited and appreciative of nature and the creations made by God. We talked and shared about the topic of ‘prayer’. Sister Liu Hui Shia shared with us her experience of urgent prayer. Brother Ma suggested that prayer can be combined with the Bible. Prayer and reading the Bible are necessary for his daily devotion life. God will respond to our prayer by the Bible; besides we will be filled with joy and walking on the right path of the Lord. Pastor Peng advised us to pray with our heart and spirit. Usually prayer contains ‘Adoration’, ‘thanksgiving’, ‘confession’ and ‘supplication’ to the Lord. It is an intimate and private communication between God and us, so we can feel free to say anything to the Lord without worry about an audience. The meeting ended at three in the afternoon of May 15.



Praise Dance

The praise dancers delighted the audience at the International Festival performance. According to Elaine Wang praise dancing is more than exercise and beautiful movement; it is worship. Each dance is performed from and through the Word of God, bringing that Word others, opening another way for them to 'see' God in His glory.

It is little wonder that praise dancing refreshes not only the audience but those dancing. It brings health, energy, and strength to face the ongoing struggles of life. Since the dancers are expressing praise to Almighty God, the one who created us and sustains us by his Spirit, they can feel the presence of God bringing gifts for living in peace and joy.

Anyone who enjoyed the praise dancing and has a desire to dance is invited to join the class here at Shepherd of the Valley church Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 10:00 AM. There are no poor dancers here, just people rejoicing in the praise of God.

“We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



讚美操

讚美操舞者們在國際文化節上精彩的表演帶給大家歡樂。跟據王玉漣長老，讚美操不只是運動和好看的動作而已，它是敬拜，每一支舞蹈都是由神而來而且是神的話語，將神的話語傳達出去，是榮耀上帝的另一種方式。

難怪讚美操不僅為觀眾們也為舞者帶來喜樂，它帶給我們健康、體力及力量去面對生命中的各項挑戰。因為舞者用舞蹈讚美創造我們的上帝，舞者感覺到神與他們同在的平安與喜樂。

任何一位欣賞讚美操而想一起舞動者，牧谷教會無任歡迎您們星期三，星期四上午九時至十時來跳讚美操舞。這裡沒有不好的舞者，只有想欣喜讚美主的人。歡迎邀請朋友一同來參加！

“我們一定要隨時準備好服侍上帝。上帝會經常送不同的人來改變我們生命的航道”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Church Work Day
Saturday, June 4th – 9:00 A.M.

教會工作日

6月4日 星期六 晨9時

6月4日是每月固定的清潔修繕日(頭一個星期六), 請大家盡量挪出時間來參加。教會是我們共同的家, 讓我們齊心維護, 並享受攜手同工的喜樂。Jeff 會負責分配工作



Let's have a good turn out and get things all cleaned up, repaired, etc. Jeff will have a lot of works for us to do! It will be a great time for fellowship while getting much needed things done

It's Father's Day!

父親節快樂

June 19th is Father's Day. To all fathers and our Heavenly Father, Happy Father's Day!

6月19日是一年一度的父親節。誠致所有父親們及天上的父神: 父親節快樂!



***** We are family in Christ. 在基督裡我們是一家人 *****

❖ **Ministry Unit Meetings** ❖

會議時間表

06/12	11:00 A.M.	Deacon's Meeting 執事會
06/08	7:30 P.M.	Mission Outreach/Christian Education 宣教委員會
06/08	7:30 P.M.	Stewardship Committee 財務委員會
06/08	7:30 P.M.	Music/Worship Committee & Christian Education 崇拜/聖樂與基督教教育委員會
06/22	7:30 P.M.	Session Meeting 小會



Preschool News

幼稚園簡訊

Some people think of June as the month for brides, but for us it is the end of one school year and the beginning of summer. We are ending our Fall Session on Friday, June 10th. Each of our classrooms will be having end of the year celebrations with lots of activities and a potluck lunch. The Prekindergarten will have a promotion celebration with their parents and other family members. This is a day of mixed emotions as we rejoice in the children's accomplishments and then say goodbye to children and families that have been with us for three years.

Then on Monday, June 13th, we jump right into our Summer Session. The children will be changing classrooms as they move up to the next older group and new children will be joining them. What a blessing these children are, not only to their families, but also to those of us who get to share in their growth and development.

May God bless you and yours.

Yours in Christ,

Carol Ridings



對某些人來說，六月是屬於新娘的月份。而對我們來說，六月是學年的結束與暑假的開始。我們即將在 6 月 10 日星期五結束這一學年，屆時每班均有表演活動以及由家長提供每家一菜午餐聚會；幼兒班也會與父母或家人共同有表演。這一天將是充滿了歡樂來慶祝孩子們的成就；也是充滿了離愁要向與我們共處三年的孩子與家庭們道珍重再見。

暑期班將於 6 月 13 日星期一開始上課。孩子們因為又長了一歲所以會換到高一級班的教室，同時又會有新同學的加入。這群孩子真是受祝福啊！其實不光是他們與他們的家人，還有我們這些有幸得以分享他們成長與發育的老師們，也同樣受到祝福。

願上帝祝福你與你的家人！

主內，



Carol A. Ridings
園長

June 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操	2 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操 7:30 p.m. (A105) Korean Prayer Meeting	3 7:00 p.m. Mandarin Fellowship 7:30 p.m. 2 nd Service Bible Study 查經	5:30 a.m. Korean Prayer Meeting 9:00 a.m. Church Work Day 教會清潔日 3:00-5:30 p.m. Korean Youth Band
Worship Services 5 8:00 a.m. Mandarin 8:15 a.m. English choir 9:30 a.m. English 11:00 a.m. Taiwanese 1:00 p.m. Korean	6 7:00 p.m. Half Step Chorus	7 7:30 p.m. Joy Chorus(A105) 7:30 p.m. Prayer and/or Visitation 禱告與探訪	8 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操 7:30 p.m. All Committees Meetings 委員會	9 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操 7:30 p.m. (A105) Korean Prayer Meeting	10 7:00 p.m. Mandarin Fellowship 7:30 p.m. 2 nd Service Bible Study 查經	11 5:30 a.m. Korean Prayer Meeting 3:00-5:30 p.m. Korean Youth Band
Worship Services 12 8:00 a.m. Mandarin 8:15 a.m. English choir 9:30 a.m. English 11:00 a.m. Deacons Meeting 11:00 a.m. Taiwanese 1:00 p.m. Korean	13 7:00 p.m. Half Step Chorus	14 7:30 p.m. Joy Chorus(A105) 7:30 p.m. Prayer and/or Visitation 禱告與探訪	15 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操	16 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操 7:30 p.m. (A105) Korean Prayer Meeting	17 7:00 p.m. Mandarin Fellowship 7:30 p.m. 2 nd Service Bible Study 查經	18 5:30 a.m. Korean Prayer Meeting 3:00-5:30 p.m. Korean Youth Band 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Taiwanese Women Fellowship
Worship Services 19 8:00 a.m. Mandarin 8:15 a.m. English choir 9:30 a.m. English 11:00 a.m. Taiwanese 1:00 p.m. Korean	20 7:00 p.m. Half Step Chorus	21 7:30 p.m. Joy Chorus(A105) 7:30 p.m. Prayer and/or Visitation 禱告與探訪	22 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操 7:30 p.m. Session Meeting 小會	23 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操 7:30 p.m. (A105) Korean Prayer Meeting	24 7:00 p.m. Mandarin Fellowship 7:30 p.m. 2 nd Service Bible Study 查經	25 5:30 a.m. Korean Prayer Meeting 3:00-5:30 p.m. Korean Youth Band
Worship Services 26 8:00 a.m. Mandarin 8:15 a.m. English choir 9:30 a.m. English 11:00 a.m. Taiwanese 1:00 p.m. Korean 1:00 p.m. Joint Meeting of Session and the Board of Deacons	27 7:00 p.m. Half Step Chorus	28 7:30 p.m. Joy Chorus(A105) 7:30 p.m. Prayer and/or Visitation 禱告與探訪	29 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操	30 9:00 a.m. Praise Dance 讚美操 7:30 p.m. (A105) Korean Prayer Meeting		