

“In the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart”



April 2011



The Biblical Counselor's Corner

“I just can't seem to forget about the past. The things that have happened to me and the things I have done seem to linger over me, even control me. How do I get 'over it' and move on?”

The unbelieving world gives too much credence and power to the past. The Bible puts the past in its proper perspective. Because of our sinfulness it is always a struggle to properly interpret our past (*Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:17-23; Romans 7:17-25*). The Bible teaches us that we must “know God INTO our past, not know God FROM our past.” The first and most important step in dealing with the past is to have a biblically-based theology of depravity. In other words, we must understand first of all that our sinfulness always impacts our understanding of the past. We sinfully skew the past to our favor, often minimizing our own role, and maximizing the role of others. We also often maximize the emphasis on the pain and suffering and minimize God's sovereign control and love. The Bible teaches that the core issue of life is worship, not pain and suffering or personal experience. What or who I worship determines my responses to what happens to me, and it is these responses to life that reveal my true character. The past is unavoidable; everyone has a past. The key to overcoming the past is not the core problem. The core problem is what we do with the past, how we respond to it.

One effective way to overcome the past is to remember *the past is a theological problem*. Theology is the study of God, and therefore the past is God's realm. We must remember that “history” is “His story.” The past is not merely my story alone, but it is also God's story. God is omnipresent (*Psalms 139:12*), and therefore He is all places in all time all at once. God is in the past, present, and future all at once; He is not bound by time and space. Our God is not merely Lord of the present; He is also Lord of the past and Lord of the future! He supremely and sovereignly reigns over every part of our existence. We can confidently say “God lives in the past,” but He not only lives there, He rules over it for His glory and for our good.

Consider the life of Naomi in the Old Testament book of Ruth. Naomi's faith was always a "mixed bag." The text teaches that she and her family ended up in the foreign land of Moab because of her husband's disobedient decision to relocate rather than trust the LORD. Early in the account Naomi "talks the talk" of a follower of God, but she doesn't "walk the walk." She knows what to say, but we get the distinct feeling, from her actions, that she doesn't really believe it in her own personal struggles. It appears that she is doing a good thing by insisting Orpah and Ruth return to their homeland when their husbands, Naomi's sons, die. But in reality it seems Naomi did not want the burden of caring for and defending two despised foreign daughters-in-law when she returned to Bethlehem (*Ruth 1:19-21*, Ruth is conspicuously absent in Naomi's account of her "woes"). Naomi removed God from her past as she selectively remembered all that had happened to her. She was seeing God FROM her experience rather than seeing God INTO her experience. Thankfully in *Ruth 2:20* we see a turning point for Naomi as she remembers God and sees Him in what has happened to her.

Like Naomi it is crucial that we see God working in our past. This is His sovereign reign in our lives. The world is not merely random accidents, chaos, or fate. *Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 45:7*, and *Exodus 4:11* declare that God is in control and intimately involved with everything that happens to us in life. So, a person's history, biblically speaking, is the story of a sovereign God who is perfectly good, and who is involved and always working. It may be a hard lesson to learn, but it is a crucial one: *God will put aside temporary happiness to do something grander in our lives, namely to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ.* As Christians we can confidently and joyfully declare with the great hymnist Isaac Watts when he put *Psalms 90* to song: "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home! Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same." Amen to the God of the past, present and future!



11005 Foster Rd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

www.gracelive.com

Join us for
EASTER
April 24, 2011

Son Rise Service - 6:30 a.m.
Breakfast - 7:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 9:45 a.m.

NO PM SERVICE

APRIL 2011 MONTHLY EVENT CALENDAR

The ROCK

**Raising Our Children
for the King -
Children's Ministries on
Wednesday evenings at
6:30 pm - Kidmo room
COME HEAR
MORE ABOUT
MISSIONS.**

College/Young Adult

Small Group

April 2nd & 16th

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Room: 6B

**DRIVEN
NEWS**

Our DRIVEN youth ministries meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All youth are welcome to attend. Please see Timothy Lansing for more details.

MOMENTUM

2011

July 12-17

Johnstown, PA

WOMEN OF GRACE

***Join the Women of Grace for their April meeting on the 12th at 6:30pm in room 6B (Lesson: Ch. 16)
*Plan to attend the Women of Grace District Rally - May 14.

Ladies Ministries

**Plan to come to our May 21st event at 5pm - Care packages for our troops & Chili dogs.
See you there!**

MISSION NEWS...

WAYNE & ELLEN PATTON BRAZIL MINISTRY UPDATE

Praise God!

For the Holy Spirit starting to build a leadership team for our Catijuba Evangelism Team.

We are rejoicing in the number of people that participated in the February Evangelism Teams!

That the GBIM has approved our ministry proposal.

Two of the men we are working with are catching their own visions and plans for the Island of Cotijuba.

Kim Johnson's embroidery class as an outreach to the kids on Vai Quem-Quer beach.

From *PATTON'S EMAIL*

PATTY MORRIS FRANCE MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear friends at Norwalk GBC,

This is just a little note to say a big THANK YOU for your love, support and prayers over the years. Although I may not say it often enough, I'm thankful for you!

May our Lord bless each one of you as you give of yourselves to the Lord and to others.

With love and gratitude, Patty

^..^
- - -
(///)~

From *PATTY'S CARD*

CECIL & DEBBIE O'DELL TOKYO MINISTRY UPDATE

Friday morning, March 11, an 8.9 magnitude earthquake hit off the shores of Japan, causing a tsunami. Our hearts are all being moved to reach out in the love of Christ to those who are suffering through great loss in northern Japan.

Wayne Hannah, Regional Director of Asia, has been in regular contact with Ralph and Joan Justiniano in Tokyo, our Team Leader for Japan. They have contacted a number of mission organizations and Japanese church groups to discover the best possible channel through which our Grace Brethren family worldwide can respond and provide relief. One such partnership of missionary groups and Japanese evangelical churches has emerged and we are confident that any and all relief contributions will be used in the best possible way to provide a Christian response to this disaster.

If you would like to help, please go to [JAPAN RELIEF FUND](#) to make a gift of love to the Japanese people. **(Check out the [gbim.org](#) website and look for the Japan Relief Fund if you would like to give.)**

From *O'DELLS EMAIL*

Bible Prophecy Conference Schedule

General Session 1

Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

“Oil and the Last Days”

The world’s vast oil reserves lie with the region of Biblical lands bringing wealth and power to many of Israel’s neighbors. Those who control oil can control the world’s economy. The Bible teaches that oil will play a major role in end-time developments.

General Session 2

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

“Egypt in the Hand of God”

The recent revolution in Egypt has once again focused the world’s attention on Northern Africa and one of Israel’s ancient enemies. The Bible teaches that Egypt will once again play a role for Israel and the world in the development of end-times events. Isaiah 19 and Ezekiel 29 will shed light on what has happened and what is ahead.

Elective Session 1 (no child care provided)

Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (please bring a sack lunch)

“Back to the Future in the Book of the Revelation”

This is an elective session for which you will need to sign up in the foyer of the church. There is an \$8.00 charge for the course syllabus payable to the church secretary at the time you sign up. Checks should be written to **Prophecy Today Ministries**. Please bring your own sack lunch.

This elective workshop will be five 45 minute sessions through the entire book of the Revelation. From beginning to end, this will be the book of Revelation “from A to Z”. Though Revelation is full of symbols and figurative language, to be rightly understood it must be explained using a literal, historical-grammatical method of interpretation. God has graciously left us His plans for the end of times.

Elective Session 2 (child care is provided)

Saturday, April 16, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

“Christ Messiah in the Passover”

In order to properly plan for this meal, you must sign up beforehand in the foyer.

Join us for a Passover meal also called a Seder. The Jewish people eat the Seder to remember their deliverance from Egyptian bondage as commanded in Exodus 13:8. There are six food items on the Seder plate plus plate of matzo. The entire Passover Seder Meal is meant to be an illustration and picture of Israel’s Messiah Jesus. Come and celebrate this special time of learning and worship with us as we behold the Messiah in the Passover. A Seder booklet will be provided to enhance your learning.

General Session 3

Sunday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.

“Iran in Bible Prophecy”

There is a growing restlessness from Israel’s enemy to the East: Iran, also known as ancient Persia. Iran’s hatred of Israel and the Jews is no secret, but God is in control of even Israel’s enemies and has a plan for Persia. We will open the Scriptures to see God’s plan for Iran in the end-times.

General Session 4

Sunday, April 17, 10:45 a.m.

“Jerusalem and the Heart of God”

Jerusalem is coveted by all nations and is the focus of global attention at all times. God has declared that Jerusalem is His holy city and the capitol of the Jewish people. The Bible teaches that in the end-times Jerusalem will become a stumbling stone for the world, like a millstone around the neck, and a cup of fear and trembling of all who try to possess her. Jerusalem is central in God’s plan for the end-times.

General Session 5

Sunday, April 17, 6 p.m.

“The Coming Messiahs”

The Bible says that in the end-times many false messiahs will come. One of these false messiahs will be the prophesied 12th imam of Islam. This session will focus on the role of Islam in the end-times and false Jewish messiahs from Israel.

APRIL 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01 7:00p Parenting Bible Study – 6B & Child Care – Music Room	02 3:00p – Laura Kimsey’s Baby Shower (F.H.) 7:30 – 9:00p College/ Young Adult – 6B
03 9a Children’s Choir	04 12n-9p DRIVEN Fundraiser – SHAVE IT	05 7:00p Girls’ Discipleship 7:00p Ladies’ study – teacher’s lounge	06 FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p DRIVEN/ROCK & ABS 8:00p Worship Team	07	08	09 Eddie Morales 10:00a or 5:00p – WE CARE Saturday (Eggs & Easter invitations)
10 9a Children’s Choir 4-6p DRIVEN Leadership 4:30-6:00p Trustee Mtg.	11	12 6:30p Women of Grace – 6B 7:00p Girls’ Discipleship	13 MIKE WINGFIELD – 6:30p FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p DRIVEN/ROCK 8:00p Worship Team	14	15 Timmy Ramirez Pat Ward WINGFIELD - 6:30p	16 8:00a WORK DAY WINGFIELD – 9a-1:30p Seder Meal: 6-8p 7:30 – 9:00p College/ Young Adult – 6B
17 <i>PALM SUNDAY</i> Barbara Deadrick Christian Medina 9a Children’s Choir & SINGING – 11am WINGFIELD – 9:30a & 10:45a & 6p	18 Charleine Musella	19 7:00p Girls’ Discipleship 7:00p Ladies’ study – teacher’s lounge 7:00p Elder Board – Pastor’s office	20 FAMILY NIGHT: 6:30p DRIVEN/ROCK (NO ABS) 8:00p Worship Team	21	22 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> Joey & Josie Ramirez	23
24 <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> 6:30a Son Rise Service 7:45a Fell. Breakfast 9:45a Worship Serv. <i>NO PM SERVICE</i>	25 (Spring Break)	26 NO Girls’ Discipleship	27 Momentum financial deadline - \$100 extra NO FAMILY NIGHT	28	29 Kristina Wilson DRIVEN – All Night Gathering (F.H.)	30 7a-1p DRIVEN Compton Initiative